

THE READER

A REVIEW OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

No. 173, Vol. VII.

Saturday, April 21, 1866.

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CONTENTS.

CURRENT LITERATURE:—

HISTORY OF ITALIAN ART	389
SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS	389
PROFESSOR FISCHER'S KANT	390
AMERICAN POETRY	391
HEREWARD THE WAKE	392
NEW NOVELS: UNCONVENTIONAL—ROSEWATNE	393
THE EDINBURGH REVIEW—THE FORTNIGHTLY REVIEW	394
MISCELLANEA	394

ESSAYS:—

ABOUT THE STREETS: (VI.) THE BLIND TRAVELLER	396
PENNY WISE	397
THE SCIENCE OF DRESS	397
PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK	398

SCIENCE:—

OWEN'S COMPARATIVE ANATOMY	399
SCIENTIFIC NOTES	401
SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE: SEEING DISTANCE, C. J. M.	402
THE FRENCH ACADEMY	402
REPORTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES—MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK	403

ART: ART NOTES

MUSIC: RECENT ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS—MUSICAL NOTES—MUSIC FOR NEXT WEEK	405
THE DRAMA: THE NEW ROYALTY—THE ST. JAMES'S—DRAMATIC NOTES	406

CONTENTS OF No. 172.

CURRENT LITERATURE:—

British North America.
Windham's Diary.
Washington Irving.
Mémoires sur la Chine.
New Novels:—
Corise.
The White Favour.
The Quarterly Review.
Pamphlets.

MISCELLANEA.

CORRESPONDENCE:—

Portrait of Edward VI.

ESSAYS:—

About the Streets: (V.)
The Players' Ground.
Breakfast.
Publications of the Week.

SCIENCE:—

Practical Chemistry Class.
The Magazines.
Physical Aspects of Palestine (VI.)

Scientific Notes.

Scientific Correspondence:—
Geology of the North of Scotland, R. I. Murchison.
—The Sphinx, Colonel Stodare.
The French Academy.
Reports of Learned Societies.
Meetings for Next Week.

ART:—

National Portrait Exhibition.
The Royal Academy.
Art Notes.

MUSIC:—

The Musical Union.
Musical Notes.
Music for Next Week.

THE DRAMA:—

The Favourite of Fortune.
Dramatic Notes.

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ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.—

The GENERAL ANNIVERSARY MEETING of the Society for the Election of the President, Vice-Presidents, Council, and Officers for the ensuing Year, and for other Business, will be held on WEDNESDAY, the 25th INSTANT, at the Society's House, 4 St. Martin's Place, Trafalgar Square. The Chair to be taken at 4 o'clock precisely.

W. S. W. VAUX,
Hon. Secretary.

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CURRENT LITERATURE.

HISTORY OF ITALIAN ART.

A New History of Painting in Italy from the Second to the Sixteenth Century; drawn up from Fresh Materials and Recent Researches in the Archives of Italy; as well as from Personal Inspection of the Works of Art scattered throughout Europe. Vol. III. By J. A. Crowe and G. B. Cavalcaselle, Authors of "The Early Flemish Painters." (Murray.)

AFTER an interval of eighteen months, the third volume of this comprehensive history of Italian painting lies before us. The period embraced in it—the latter half of the fifteenth century—is remarkable for the aggrandizement of many streams, which eventually coalesced, and were swallowed up in the flood of glory on which Raphael and Michael Angelo float as unquestioned rulers. The names of many of their predecessors will possess but little interest for the majority of readers; and it must have been a task of no ordinary difficulty to select for a lengthened notice the chief figures round which the crowd of obscure artists are most properly to be grouped. Luca Signorelli, who must have lived to see the rise, and who even survived the death of Raphael, was a profound student of anatomy. His drawings from the naked model, or from subjects, might easily be confounded with similar ones by Michael Angelo; but the truth in art which he arrived at was not softened by taste or tact. He would not have understood the aphorism of Goethe, that the Beautiful includes the True. Feats of drawing were his delight, and the incidents derived from classical hints were more congenial to his pencil than the numerous commissions he received for altar-pieces and church standards. It is therefore particularly gratifying that a canvas, answering a special description of Vasari, has been recently discovered in Florence. A line engraving, probably the first ever given of it, discloses "The School of Pan." The authors frankly admit that they have only seen the photograph, taken from a most careful drawing; and "if it be as well preserved as it is beautifully composed and designed, it is one of the most important extant pictures of Signorelli." A comparison of Signorelli's frescoes at Orvieto with those of Da Fiesole is worth extracting, as it shows the link he formed in a great trilogy:—

Had it been the fortune of Angelico to complete the chapel of S. Brizio, he would no doubt have painted the same subjects in the grand but kindly solemn spirit which pervades those in the ceilings—a spirit the very reverse of that which marks the colossal, and often vulgar, forms of the Cortonese. Both men were great in their path; but they pursued different ways and aims—the one waiting the spectator into an atmosphere of calm, the other with difficulty convincing him that he is not hovering over a field of battle. Unavoidable indeed is the reflection that Signorelli, whilst he challenges our admiration, does so by a medley of conflicting, and not always pleasing impressions. The pleasure which he creates is not entirely unalloyed. Like Michael Angelo, he fascinates and crushes; he extorts applause by his extraordinary vigour, and hardly leaves a moment for the analysis of the sensations which crowd together at sight of his masterpieces. We admit the daring conception, and its successful realization, but we feel less sympathy than surprise. The character of Signorelli was eminently calculated to strike the mind and to rouse the attention of Michael Angelo; nor is it a marvel that, having visited Orvieto, he should be pleased by the art of Luca, and consider some of his groups worthy of reproduction in the Last Judgment of the Sistine Chapel.

After all the great pains our authors have taken to fix their dates, it is singular they should give two different ones for the death of Signorelli. Thus in the note to p. 1 "his death is all but proved to have occurred in 1523," whereas in p. 26 we read, "In 1524 Signorelli sat for the last time in the magistracy of Cortona, and it is believed that his death took place either in that year or shortly after."

The fact of the decline of the Siennese school, and its absorption into that of Perugia, is duly noted. The ultimate predominance of Perugia over that of the other Umbrian schools is attributed principally to Benedetto Bonfigli. A fortunate combination of circumstances brought Domenico Veneziano to Perugia in 1438, and either at the same time, or very shortly after, Piero della Francesca, his pupil, was there also. That Bonfigli derived Umbrian and Florentine character from these two artists may easily be proved by the evidence of his pictures. He may have been Domenico's assistant, and have laboured in company with Piero della Francesca. A piece of ingenious criticism goes far to prove that "Ingegno," a painter whose nominal works are scattered over the galleries of Europe, is little more than a mere *nominis umbra*. If he ever existed, he must have been "at the school of Fiorenzo di Lorenzo, and a companion of Pinturicchio; but until better evidence shall be brought forward than the initials of a name, or the records of Assisi, doubts must continue to be entertained."

The chapter on Perugino is carefully worked up. His connexion with all the great artists of the day, and especially with Leonardo da Vinci, is made out without any forcing of probabilities. Both "are entitled in separate measures to claim the merit of having helped to form Fra Bartolommeo and Andrea del Sarto." But we cannot forbear to quote the remarks upon the *Pietà* of the Pitti:—

The year 1495 was thus remarkable in the career of Vannucci. It was that in which an Umbrian, imbibing the principles slowly developed throughout two centuries since Giotto, successfully applied the laws of composition, and added a calm tenderness to the gravity of the Florentine school, and, through his influence on Fra Bartolommeo and Raphael, replaced, as far as it was possible to do so, the pious mysticism that had perished with Angelico. The time, indeed, was one when no artist could hope to revive the simplicity of old convent art, when no reformer, were he talented or enthusiastic as Savonarola proved himself, could restore a religious spirit incompatible with the condition of society during the ebb of Republican liberty; but it was still a time when a pleasing gentleness, an expression of purity in representing heart in conjunction with positive liberty, might be substituted for the deeper and more imposing sentiment of Giotto, Orcagna, Traini, and Fra Giovanni.

The gradual rise of Raphael, who was Perugino's pupil at the very time when his master was most honest in his practice, and before he had sacrificed his love of art to his love of money, is traced with the greatest minuteness. There is no other book which investigates so well the share which must be claimed for Raphael in many of the Peruginese masterpieces. Separate chapters are allotted to Pinturicchio, Lo Spagna, Manni, and others; and we are shown how the Siennese school gradually assimilated the various foreign elements which at length overshadowed it. The last great artist it could boast was Peruzzi. He followed the fashion of his period in becoming an architect and engineer. Perhaps he found that he had reached a height in painting on which he could not maintain himself. Such, at least, is the opinion of his critics. But he died comparatively young, before the general decline of art had set in, which there is nothing to show that his individual labours would have been powerful enough to retard.

Pass we now to the great Florentines—if we can apply that epithet to Lorenzo di Credi, who was inspired perhaps more by his fellow-pupils, and the atmosphere in which he lived, than by any innate powers. Still more dependent upon his youthful promise for his reputation is Raffaellino del Garbo. If his name is justly given to three Madonnas of mixed Florentine and Umbrian creation, "we have a specimen of the manner in which artist-journeymen assumed a different style as they passed from one school to another, and thus almost defy identification." But in Fra Bartolommeo della Porta we come undeniably on one of the kings of art. Like

other monarchs, whose ideal of life was not even gratified by a sceptre, he abdicated his throne, and retired to the cloister. Time hung heavy on his hands in the cloisters of San Marco. It seems probable that Raphael, then fresh from the school of Perugino, sought him out. He in his turn learnt perspective from the rising artist; and at last, after an abstinence of four years, he devoted himself entirely to the pencil, and thought of nothing else till his death. His career is more personally interesting than that of most of his contemporaries and fellow-labourers; and the various moods through which his poetical temperament passed may be traced in his grandest compositions, to which they lend a peculiar value. This volume closes with Andrea del Sarto—"a little fellow," said Michael Angelo to Raphael, "who will bring sweat to your brow, if ever he is engaged in great works." No name is better known to all tourists who have ever reached Florence; and an excellent engraving of the "Madonna del Sacco" will remind them of one of the greatest trophies of that city of the arts. The authors have done well to prepare the way for the full glories of Italian art which must occupy the succeeding volume. The indexes, the illustrations, and the catalogues of the pictures of the artists mentioned at length, are elaborated here with the same care as in the first volumes, which have been so favourably received by the public. In every respect the authors have answered to their early promise. When this history is finally completed, it will contain at once the most trustworthy annals and the soundest criticism of that long series of men and works which form so large a portion of the life of what was the most energetic nation of Europe in one of its most active periods.

SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS.

Shakespeare's Sonnets Never before Interpreted; his Private Friends Identified: together with a Recovered Likeness of Himself. By Gerald Massey. (Longmans.)

WE lately took occasion to draw attention to the heap of conjectural criticism, biographical, philological, and historical, under which the plays and poems of Shakespeare have been buried, and to express a hope that his admirers were becoming more rational in their mode of rendering honour to his memory. People who set up for favour in the political arena are not treated in this fashion. It is the unpopular candidate who is surrounded and hustled by the mob, and to whose coat-tails the little boys and aspiring patriots of the village think themselves authorized to pin all manner of unsavoury rags. Yet here is the poet of all time, as we delight to call him in the convenient words of Ben Jonson; and it is no exaggeration to say that we have treated him worse than the rottenest borough in the kingdom treated the poorest caiff that ever solicited its suffrages. The fact that in our eagerness to make much of Shakespeare we have nearly trampled the life out of his works, has not escaped the attention of foreign critics. They naturally wonder why we should expose to such an ordeal a poet of whom we are so proud; and we should not be surprised if they came to the conclusion, some day, that it really arises from imperfect appreciation of his genius. One thing is clear, that from the time when the passion set in for annotating Shakespeare, speculating on his occult meanings, and hunting up his biography in bits and scraps of lines, we have been gradually losing sight of his poetry, considered apart for its own sake, in its own region of feeling and imagination. We suffer ourselves to be so much engrossed by extrinsic incidents, that our sense of essentials becomes more and more weakened every day.

Who, for instance, could ever again feel the old charm of the Sonnets sinking into his heart, as it used to do in his boyhood long ago, after reading this ponderous volume by Mr. Gerald Massey? Even Mr. Massey himself seems to be conscious of the paralyzing effect of these terrible dissertations;

for, speaking of the mysterious dedication, he says, with much homeliness of speech, that "Thorpe's Inscription, rather than Shakespeare's Sonnets, has become the main object of critical interest and ingenuity; and Thorpe's shallowness, not Shakespeare's depth, has received all the attention of efforts which have been vain as it would be to try and gauge the depths of azure heaven in the reflex of a roadside puddle." The sentence is a little cloudy, but its intention cannot be mistaken; and although we are not aware of any evidence of shallowness on the part of poor Thorpe in the matter of the Inscription, we entirely concur with Mr. Massey in his comparison of the azure heaven and the roadside puddle, if by those images he means to typify Shakespeare and some of his critics.

The volume occupies more than 600 handsome pages, and its object is to clear up the obscurities which have hitherto hung like a mist on the Sonnets. Mr. Massey tells us that they have never been interpreted before—not that they have never been interpreted correctly, but that they have never been interpreted before, so says his title-page. Seeing that Brown, and Drake, and Chalmers, and twenty others have been "interpreting" these poems, each after his own fashion, from the palmy days of Stevens down to the last curious explorer in *Notes and Queries*, and that Mr. Massey has put them all out of court in his preliminary chapters, this statement on the threshold of his investigations only serves to show how a man may be so deeply absorbed in a particular pursuit as to become oblivious of its most familiar elements. But the real question is, What is the new interpretation put forward by Mr. Massey?

The actual amount of his speculations, stripping them of extraneous details, and of that wonderful web of suppositions which seems to grow under the hands of some writers as fast as beds of mushrooms, may be very succinctly stated. Mr. Massey is of opinion that the Earl of Southampton was the "lord of Shakespeare's love;" that some of the Sonnets are not personal to Shakespeare himself; that the enigma concerning them may be unlocked by assuming that they were written to portray various phases of the Earl's courtship of Elizabeth Vernon, sometimes as being addressed from one to the other, and sometimes as coming from Shakespeare himself; and that other Sonnets were composed at the request of William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, who was the "W. H." of the Inscription, and the "begetter" of the sonnets, in the sense of having got them direct from Shakespeare, and obtained his leave to publish them. These results are obtained from internal evidence; and that internal evidence is obtained and brought together by the arbitrary process of breaking up the original order of the Sonnets, and transposing them into such groups as appear most likely to sustain a pre-conceived theory. The small batches of sonnets thus collected are set in elaborate essays of mixed criticism, narrative, and speculation, for the most part very wild and enthusiastic, and leaving no stone unturned to make a strong case out of weak and evanescent materials. Then we have a life of Southampton, which, full as it is of particulars, omits more than one item of importance, true or false; a life of Lady Rich, whose connexion with the main business is, at least, very remote and slender; and a new portraiture of Shakespeare, drawn in the fantastical style which has of late years rather wearied the public in reference to the "man Shakespeare," and the "poet Shakespeare," and such like.

It would be exceedingly unjust to Mr. Massey not to give him credit for the wide reach of desultory reading he has wasted upon this book, and for the earnestness with which he has persevered in the pursuit of an object which never can take any more solid shape than that of a phantom. But it would be still more unjust to Shakespeare not to say that the integrity of his poems and their true literary interest are seriously compro-

mised by these attempts to detect personal allusions and domestic secrets in them, which in all human probability Shakespeare never contemplated. There would be no difficulty in showing that Mr. Massey has made no discoveries. There is nothing new in his "interpretation," except his expansion of it, and the untiring diligence with which—like water, that runs everywhere—he fills up every chink of speculation. The supposed connexion of Southampton and Pembroke with the Sonnets, more or less, is not a problem of to-day; and Mrs. Jamieson was the first to bring the name of Elizabeth Vernon into the imaginary history. But priority of speculation is of far less consequence than the obligation of preserving the Sonnets as they have come down to us. Mr. Massey says—entirely without authority—or perhaps, he only supposes—that the Sonnets were originally printed with Shakespeare's sanction. If that be so, or if he only imagines it to be so, there was an additional obligation on him not to tamper with the order in which Shakespeare published them, or allowed them to be published. To alter the order, for any reason, is unjustifiable; but to alter it for the purpose of trying to build up a story out of it, is still more reprehensible. If the Sonnets be sonnets—if we take it for granted that Shakespeare meant them for sonnets, as he called them by that name—they are separate and independent poems, and cannot be grouped into novettes without doing violence to their design.

PROFESSOR FISCHER'S KANT.

A Commentary on Kant's Critick of The Pure Reason: Translated from the "History of Modern Philosophy," by Professor Kuno Fischer, of Jena, with an Introduction, &c. By John Pentland Mahaffy, A.M., Fellow and Tutor of Trinity College, Dublin. (Longmans.)

THERE can be no question that metaphysical studies are reviving again. Like the "back-lands" of Jamaica, they have gone out of cultivation, so to speak, only to be claimed and quarrelled over as *terra disputabilis* by selfish but illegitimate settlers; but this brood of nondescripts is being rapidly ousted by those who are establishing their claim to a rational and legitimate possession. The odd, patchy, and niggling cultivation of a race neither altogether Transcendental, Sceptical, nor Positive, is giving place to broad, orderly, and profitable culture, as far removed from what was once thought to be metaphysical, as it is from the blank denial of all metaphysics as held by some extreme thinkers. Certain temporary causes may have conduced to this revival; but it has, we think, grown out of more general ones. A wider diffusion of scientific knowledge and logical discipline has given greater precision to both our terms and the ideas they express, and a lawful and laudable desire to ascertain the limits of human experience has had the effect of throwing back its powers to a more careful study of that which is actually, if only relatively, determinable. Instead of reposing at the foot of a confessed difficulty, "as quietly as in the possession of a discovered truth," to use Dr. Arnold's words as applied to his own habit of mind, we have come back to the champagne country of ascertainable fact, and worked there with a diligence stimulated by the very sight of these mountains of unconquerable mystery and might. We have thus grown less transcendental and more critical, less troubled with final causes and more studious of psychology.

In Kant much of this modernness is apparent, but in so confused a state as to puzzle alike his admirers and his opponents. Regarded by some as the prince of transcendentalists, whatever they please to mean by that term, he is looked upon by others as the merciless critic who destroyed everything except a little pitiful "ought" which he somehow smuggled in to save himself and his followers from absolute scepticism. Some professed students of his "Critick" and other writings linger in uncertainty as to his idealism and his denial of it, and have not

failed to notice occasional discrepancies even where Kant seemed to have held his thoughts grasped in closest unity. The systematic development of his critical philosophy has been, however, carefully followed by acute critics, and he has been found, like most men, to have changed his opinions and shifted his position a little in the course of time. Schopenhauer and Professor Fischer have done good service in this respect, and the former has especially pointed out certain differences both of exposition and doctrine in the two editions of the "Critick." They have very possibly pressed these too far, as Mr. Mahaffy argues in his introduction; but even he is forced to admit some differences of treatment in the two editions, as, for instance, in the chapter on Phenomena and Noumena, although declaring that Kant "did not favour Idealism so decidedly in the first edition;" nor distinctly repudiate any of his positions in the second. But Fischer is decided enough. He says "there can be no doubt that Kant weakened the strict idealism of his doctrine, not because he doubted it, nor because he wanted courage to maintain so daring a theory, but merely because he wanted to make his teaching to a certain extent popular and exoteric. Common (or exoteric, or dogmatical) sense was satisfied to accept the Kantian philosophy, with this little admission, that phenomena were also something beyond our mere faculty of representation; not much, but just something to be set down for our satisfaction as a mere unknown x , which might readily be excused, when we had so happily discovered the limits of the understanding. Kant made this concession, and so gained a numerous school of followers, which would otherwise hardly have been the case. The 'Critick' in the first edition was the 'Critick' from the standpoint of Kant; the following editions were from that of the Kantians. It is remarkable enough that the whole Kantian school expressed itself satisfied with a second edition of the 'Critick,' and never remarked its difference from the first." Indeed, Fischer's entire account of the historical development of the critical problems is highly interesting, and Mr. Mahaffy has very well supplemented it by bringing out all through the book the points of collision between Kant and the moderns, including Hamilton, Mansel, Mill, and Bain. The reader would not thank us to follow him, but he will be startled, as we were, to be told that the great merit of Fischer's sketch is "to show that he (Kant) saw and considered the solutions of his problems, attempted since by other philosophers, and deliberately rejected them." The statement, in fact, wants qualification, since it is evident that if Kant had failed to solve his difficulties by precisely the same methods as have since been tried by others, there is no resource left us but pure Kantism, which, with all his Kantian predilections, is, we imagine, much more than Mr. Mahaffy ventures to affirm. "I have," he says, at the close of his introduction, "appeared to side with him more completely than is really the case. Many of the questions discussed are so dark and subtle (subtile?), that it would be rash to accept even Kant's solutions absolutely; and upon others he has shown much vacillation. It would be, however, beside the question to have added my own positive assent, or qualifications, of his views."

The great merit of Fischer's work is its clearness, but even this, according to his translator, occasionally leads him to misunderstand the great Königsburg philosopher. One cannot help thinking that it has done so here and there, but there are points in the "Critick"—for instance, the discussion of the critical solution of the third antinomy—which Mr. Mahaffy says "the most acute thinkers in our University have expressed themselves as either puzzled or dissatisfied with." A comparison of this solution with what Mr. Mill has written upon the freedom of the will is highly instructive, and the one helps to bring out the meaning of the other in a remarkable degree. There is not so much

THE READER.

21 APRIL, 1866.

difference between the two as appears at first sight, only one must put down empirical causality, as "does" instead of "must," substitute justice for freedom as the ground of punishment, and for "intelligible character," read "will," reciprocally conditioning and conditioned by empirical character. In rendering Kant's definitions of opinion, belief, and knowledge, Fischer is much too pointless and diffuse, and one can understand them much better in Meiklejohn's rendering of the original. Kant ignored illustration as unscientific, and despised any attempts at pleasing lazy philosophers. He not only declared with Abbé Terrasson that "many a book would be much shorter, if it were not so short," but went a step further, and affirmed that "many a book would have been much clearer if it had not been intended to be so very clear." Readers of Kant know the consequences of this view, and many who have laid down his "Critick" in despair may take it up again with Professor Fischer's aptly-chosen illustrations, and get as near the heart of the Kantian philosophy as any bewildered mortal need desire.

Mr. Mahaffy tries to dispose of the gravest charge against Kant's critical philosophy—that of having made the human reason essentially delusive, or, in Hamilton's words, "a complexus of antilogies." It is, in fact, singular that so many readers should have run a muck against the paralogisms, and missed Kant's express declaration concerning them, and the illusions of Reason, but such is the fact. "The paralogism," says Kant, in his "Critick," "has its foundation in the nature of the human reason, and is the parent of an unavoidable, though not insoluble, mental illusion." Not only is this ignored, but his own solutions are never so much as mentioned. In all four antinomies, Mr. Mahaffy maintains, "the theses and antitheses are not contradictories, but contraries. Hence we cannot argue from the falsity of one to the truth of the other. All the arguments, therefore, offered are invalid, but in the case of the latter, a modification in their statement makes them sub-contraries, in which case we cannot argue from the truth of one to the falsity of the other." Fischer's interpretation of the illusions is worth giving, and is a good specimen of his style:—

The thing *per se*, which is the limit of experience, appears also to be the object of experience. The limiting concept involuntarily produces the illusion of being a limiting object. We cannot represent to ourselves the limit, except as in space and time; the thing *per se* regarded as a limit, appears as the spatial and temporal limit of the world, as its first cause, as its necessary being, &c. This illusion, deceitful as it is, is unavoidable. The "Critick of Reason" can explain it, but the human reason cannot get rid of it. We can be taught by the "Critick" not to follow this illusion, not to take this apparent object for a real one, not to transcend experience. But no "Critick" will cause the illusion to vanish. Hence Kant calls it an *unavoidable illusion*. Just in the same way mathematical geography teaches us that where the sky and the earth appear to touch, this is not really the case—that the sky is there just as far from the earth as at our zenith; but no explanation can remove the illusion of the senses, it can only prevent the illusion from being accepted and treated as a real fact. Astronomy teaches us that the moon when it has just risen over the horizon is not larger than when it is high in the heavens, though it then appears to us smaller; optics explain to us, from the nature of perspective, why the rising moon should appear larger. We avoid, then, judging the moon's size by this illusion; but we cannot avoid being subject to the illusion. . . . It is quite true that there is a limit to experience; that the concept of the thing *per se*, or the idea, forms this point of limit. But it is quite false and illusory to imagine that this limit can be reached in experience, and that it lies, as it were, in the same plane. The thing *per se* appears only to be in contact with experience, just as the sky appears to touch the earth at the horizon. The untaught understanding, following sensuous evidence, might hope to grasp the sky when it has reached the limit of the horizon. It knows not that at that very limit it would still stand at the centre of a new

horizon. So the uncritical understanding imagines to reach the thing *per se* at the limits of experience, while there would then open to view only a new domain of unlimited experience.

This is clear enough for Kantism. Fischer avails himself of this illustration, again, to explain the difference between the sceptic and the critic in philosophy. The former shows the limits of human reason empirically, as he might urge that daily experience convinces us that the limits of the horizon change with our change of position, without referring to any other ulterior and explanatory fact; but the latter is the "geographer of the reason; he knows the diameter, circumference, and bounds of the reason; while the sceptic only notices its external limitations, and knows as little of their real nature as the empiricist, who can only explain the limits of the horizon from sensuous experience, without knowing that the earth is a globe." Hume, he holds, represents the former, Kant the latter; but scepticism "only contradicts dogmatism to prepare for criticism; it forms the transition from the one to the other. When the reason knows itself properly, it must take up neither the dogmatical, nor the polemical, nor the sceptical, but the critical attitude only."

Herein Kant has done good service for the world, and his "Critick" stands to modern thought something like the Platonic Dialogues did to ancient philosophy. We have got beyond Kant, but it was Kant who helped us to do so. Human reason is limited, but our knowledge is not therefore absolutely restricted to sensuous things. We may say, as his countryman Schleiermacher did to Jacobi, "For I will not, either, in all extremity allow myself to be deprived of the right to philosophize," so long as we do not try to storm the absolute, or compass the incompassable. As a discipline of pure thought, and as a reactive tension against so much current intellectual innervation, the "Critick" will long hold its place, if upon no other ground; and Professor Fischer's work is entitled to the first place as a lucid and able, if sometimes diffuse exposition of it, even though the genuine student will dare to grapple with Kant himself, as Carlyle did with Newton's "Principia."

AMERICAN POETRY.

Golden Leaves from the American Poets. Collected by John W. S. Hows. With an Introductory Essay by Alexander Smith. (Frederick Warne & Co.)

WHATEVER and however numerous may be thought to have been the influences hostile to her literary development, with which America has had to contend, it is at least certain that she has, in a comparatively brief period, produced a surprising volume both of poetry and prose, much of which we willingly believe is destined only to perish with the English language itself. American writers from the earliest times have enjoyed the advantage of finding a tongue already existing for them in a perfect form. They have experienced none of those inconveniences by which British authors of the age of Chaucer were beset, incidental to the infant days of grammatical science. All that was left for them to do was to bring ideas, which a perfect vehicle of expression might convey. On the other hand, there have existed certain circumstances which have indubitably been instrumental in retarding the growth of a national American literature. The Transatlantic continent was at the outset of its history a very land of Babel. Its settlers came from every quarter of Europe, each bringing with them their peculiar tongues. There were the French who settled in Quebec, and the English Puritans and Quakers of John Hampden and William Penn. New York was principally colonized by Dutch, and the Delaware was the resort of Swedes. Thus, while there were, indeed, a variety of languages whose structure was complete, there was no one language sufficiently wide-spread to ensure a certain popularity for the productions of the

Americo-European author, whatever intrinsic merits they might possess. Again, the inhabitants of the best tracts of the newly-discovered country were strangers to the true sentiment of nationality. They possessed no early traditions, no historic records common to all, which could diffuse throughout every class and order of men the recognized conviction that they were one people. Each fresh instalment of settlers had its different stock of antiquities and prehistoric memories; and even when out of the diverse elements one nation was at length formed, there were still lacking the annals of the remote past, possessing a sufficiently catholic interest to at once stimulate the imagination of the poet and secure the interest of the popular mind. It is mainly, we believe, in consequence of these reasons that there is little to stamp the literature of the New World as being essentially its own, and peculiar to itself. The patriotic dream of the poet had at last become realized, and the English language was the common medium of speech in a country of almost illimitable extension; and the consequence was, that the prevailing colour of thought was English as well. There was hardly anything to distinguish the songs of the American poet as being separate in kind from the effusions of the British bard. What was written at New York might as well have been written in London, and, as far as distinctive character was concerned, the ventures of publishers in Broadway might as well have first seen the light in Paternoster Row. With a few striking exceptions, Transatlantic poetry and prose is little more than a re-echo of what has come from the pens of authors of the "Old Country." We do not mean to accuse American writers of plagiarism on English originals, but the same spirit inspires the productions of both. The humour of Washington Irving has a close affinity to that of Addison; the mysteries and horrors in which the pages of Charles Brockden Browne or Edgar Poe abound, bear the impress of careful study of the works of Goodwin or Mrs. Radcliffe. Bryant is a close copyist of the Spenserian stanza of Byron, and Mr. Longfellow will be best described by saying that he is an instance of what may be expected from a judicious combination of Wordsworth and Cowper, not without a strong infusion of the spirit of the present Laureate. In the future history of American poetry we may, perhaps, expect to find something different. It is possible that the late stirring political and military events, which have caused themselves to be felt throughout the length and breadth of the land, may excite a novel and thoroughly national train of poetic thought, and thus become an indigenous source of inspiration. At present, however, very few American bards have been moved to sing the praises of their country; indeed, a glance at the titles of the poems in the collection now before us will rather conduce to the belief that, as a matter of choice, they prefer themes exclusively connected with the land of their ancestors. For illustrations of American feeling, and for touches of American life, we must chiefly turn to the earliest authors, or to such as are but comparatively little known to the English public. The "Biglow Papers" of Mr. Lowell, and the "Tales" in the hexameter of Mr. Longfellow, are the most prominent exceptions. Paulding, one of the principal American poets some thirty years ago, was the first to interest his countrymen to raise some national standard of verse, and not to rely wholly for their ideas upon English writers. He did not, however, illustrate his precept by example, and his exhortation seem to have had but slight effect.

How far Transatlantic society is favourable to the development of the poetic spirit may reasonably be doubted. Natural scenery, rich in a grandeur to which English eyes are strangers, appears to fail in eliciting any very exalted strains commemorative of its glories. A subdued gentleness is, perhaps, the most agreeable feature in the national poetry, as

21 APRIL, 1866.

we will presently endeavour to show. The question which we have suggested would of course involve an inquiry into the different effects of democratical and monarchical institutions upon the imaginative faculties and culture of a people. If, on the one hand, the equality of classes in America may be considered likely to urge ambitious individuals to achieve lettered distinction, there is, also, a proportionate danger lest, public feeling being reduced to one uniform level, poetic fancy should be depressed as well, and intellectual idiosyncracies, without which poetry cannot exist, be swept away by the remorseless torrent of popular opinion. As a matter of fact, the atmosphere of despotism, or at least of a rigidly monarchical government, seems to have been most congenial to the national imagination. The age of Elizabeth and of the positive rather than negative legislation of Burleigh was rich in a marvellous galaxy of highly imaginative productions. Even Milton soared to "the highest heaven of poetry," beneath the frowns of oppression; and the base servility of the high elements of society under Louis XIV. of France exercised an invigorating influence upon the French intellect, just as the perfection of Roman poetry was only attained under the genial tyranny of Augustus. But American Republicanism may have produced poets on the same principle that, according to the Platonic notion, democracy will produce philosophers. Calm, reflective minds, who are possessed with no passionate longing to make a striking political display, will, we are told in the *Republic*, seek a refuge from the tempestuous hurricanes of diplomacy and intrigue beneath the shelter of philosophic contemplation; and those spirits of the New World, who, though possessing possibly the power, have no inclination to plunge into the whirlpool of public official life, seem to have found their happiness and reward in framing poetic lays whose beauty lies rather in their delicacy, pathos, and almost melancholy refinement, than in heart-stirring and soul inspiring sentiments. When Mr. Longfellow writes, in the course of a very pleasing and polished poem—

Not from the grand old masters,
Not from the bards sublime,
Whose distant footsteps echo
Through the corridors of time.

Read from some humbler poet,
Whose songs gushed from his heart,
As showers from the clouds of summer,
Or tears from the eyelids start—

he exactly expresses what might be called the burthen of almost all American poetry, which is, indeed,

A feeling of sadness and longing,
Which is not akin to pain,
And resembles sorrow only,
As the mist resembles the rain.

Transatlantic critics, not less than poets, seem to have deeply rooted within them the notion that a certain melancholy is as indispensable as a "certain strangeness" to "exquisite beauty." This taint of sorrow may be recognized even in pieces on professedly exhilarating themes. "The Health" of Edward Coates Pinkney,—an exceedingly beautiful production, and one which most undeniably ought to have been given in the selection of specimens now before us,—is, in a certain way, tinged by this all-pervading sadness. It will probably be unknown to one reader out of a hundred, so that we may be pardoned for making an extract from it here:—

Affections are as thoughts to her,
The measures of her hours;
Her feelings have the fragrancy,
The freshness of young flowers.
And lovely passions, changing oft,
So fill her, she appears
The image of themselves by turns,
The idol of past years!

I filled this cup to one made up
Of loveliness alone,

A woman, of her gentle sex
The seeming paragon.
Her health! and would on earth there stood
Some more of such a frame,
That life might be all poetry,
And weariness a name!

We may now notice a distinctly opposite characteristic which is apparent in much American poetry, an unnatural hankering after effect. "The want of genuine imagination," says a modern critic, "is always proved by a caricature; monsters are the growth not of passion but of the attempt forcibly to stimulate it." American poets, not less than novelists, are fond of such "monsters." The result may be brilliantly sensational, but it astonishes rather than delights. When we mention the verses of Edgar Poe, we shall have signified our meaning with sufficient clearness. In the "Raven," perhaps, this tendency is seen in its extreme form; but even in such a composition as the lines "To One in Paradise," the voice that speaks is rather that of the "simulated passion" of the stage, than of one who laments in all the sincerity of sorrow:—

For alas! alas! with me
The light of life is o'er!
"No more—no more—no more"
(Such language holds the solemn sea
To the sands upon the shore)
Shall bloom the thunder-blasted tree,
Or the stricken eagle soar!

With this impassioned but melodramatic wail let us compare four well-known lines:—

Break, break, break,
At the foot of thy crags, O sea!
But the tender grace of a day that is dead
Will never come back to me.

The difference in the two is that between reality and affectation. The antagonism at which we have already hinted between the popular and poetic feeling in America might be further illustrated by the fact that we may search in vain for any metrical apotheosis of what are usually supposed to be the distinguishing features of Transatlantic life. The charms of quietude and rustic repose are preferred as themes to the triumphs of progress and the glories of commerce. Apollo does not always keep his bow strung; and it is the peculiar delight of the poet of a highly artificial society to take refuge in an ideal simplicity. What could be prettier than lines such as these, what more suggestive of the sweet odours of the country? Thomas Buchanan Read is the author:—

Between broad fields of wheat and corn
Is the lowly home where I was born;
The peach-tree leans against the wall,
And the woodbine wanders over all;
There is the shaded doorway still,
But a stranger's foot has crossed the sill.

The selections in "Golden Leaves" do not appear to us to be by any means judiciously made. We are well aware of the difficulty in successfully accomplishing so thankless a task. Public opinion is, of course, the sole guide to follow; but we can hardly believe that this "one portable volume" contains precisely "those poems that have, by general acceptance, become identified in the hearts of the people as the choicest and noblest specimens of American national poetry." In the case of several authors, productions which are confessedly their finest have been omitted, and inferior pieces substituted. Perhaps the most exquisite, and certainly the most characteristic, short poem which Bryant ever wrote, is one entitled "June." We regret that our space does not allow us to quote it here. Surely, it might have found a place in "Golden Leaves," in preference to "The Fringed Gentian," which, though beautiful of its kind, is not equally typical of the author. It should be the object of every editor to select exactly those productions which are the most decided examples of the peculiar genius of the poet. Mr. Smith's introductory essay does not call for much comment. It is thoughtfully and carefully written, but is not, in any respect, striking. From one or

two of his critical judgments we entirely dissent. The unqualified eulogium which he bestows upon Dr. Holmes is, in our opinion, wholly undeserved, whose *vers-de-société* are deficient in the very qualities which Mr. Smith lays down as indispensable—"unexpected rhymes, and a constant flow of witty and fanciful illustrations." The essay, however, is written in that pleasant, gossiping style, which its author can handle with so much popularity and effect. Viewing the volume as a whole, it is, perhaps, as satisfactory as could have been expected. It possesses high typographical merits, is altogether elegantly produced, and rejoices in the attractive exterior which is no insignificant item in the choice of a gift book.

HEREWARD THE WAKE.

Hereward the Wake, "Last of the English." By the Rev. C. Kingsley. In 2 Vols. (Macmillans.)

PROFESSOR KINGSLEY may not know much about the Science of History, and may be content to despise it, so long as he can produce such historical pictures as "Hereward the Wake." The first part of his story is laid in scenes most congenial to the author. The Danes and the Vikings are always present to his mind. Here he can make exactly what he likes of them. Their deeds are embellished, and held up as the admiration of contemporary characters, with but faint condemnation, and that thrown in by way of popular concession to our squeamish morality. Sometimes, indeed, the Professor cannot help his favourite adjuration, "small blame to him," when his hero has been doing something very violent indeed, as if he thought, like a famous statesman, Hereward could get on alone when he was right, but wanted some support when he was wrong. We have not made ourselves acquainted with the investigations of Mr. Wright, to which the author alludes in his preface, as having afforded the historical material out of which the shadow of Hereward has been evoked. Nor is this of much importance either to critic or reader. Assistance of that kind may have lightened Professor Kingsley's task, but he is probably less indebted than he supposes. When he had once made up his mind to select so interesting a character as Hereward, there could be no doubt that he would produce a stirring tale. In fact, we are inclined to think there is here too much antiquarian learning as it is. Genealogies and relationships are interwoven in a most complicated manner with incidents which could well have dispensed with them; and anyone who could pass an examination in "Hereward" would have a very competent knowledge of the various stems which at the time of the Conquest may be classed amongst the ancestry of our Royal line.

Hereward was the second son of Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and Godiva, the famous Lady of Coventry. He was a bold, swaggering youth, who plundered monks and haunted the King's highway at a time of life when young men now-a-days go up to the University, and are content to read in novels of what their Saxon representatives did. The way in which it is hinted that there is not so much difference after all between the two generations, and that boys will be boys, and ought not to be treated like men, is very happily done. Abbots, too, and priors are shown to be but jolly old bachelors, especially old Saxon monks, who were milder, if less ascetic, than the Norman successors who turned their wooden shrines into the stone cathedrals which have endured to our time. Hereward, however, gets outlawed instead of being rusticated, and spends his exile in giving and receiving hard knocks. In Scotland he kills a bear, and in Cornwall a great Pictish giant, "the biggest man he had ever seen, with high cheek bones and small ferret eyes, looking out from a greasy mass of bright red hair and beard." At last he gathers round him a band of outlaws and adventurers like himself, and becomes a regular Viking—no disreputable occupation

THE READER.

21 APRIL, 1866.

in those days, though the time when it was lucrative had long before gone by. Driven on the shore of Flanders, he takes service with Count Baldwin, and marries Torfrida, a rich heiress of Bruges. Meanwhile the Norman Conquest is enacting itself, and Hereward, who refuses to side with either party when his reputation and following might have turned the scale, resolves, when too late, to succour his oppressed countrymen. So he sets sail for Boston in Lincolnshire, and was soon under the shadow of the old family mansion at Bourne. Lady Godiva was there still; but strange guests revelled in the hall, and paid little heed to her moanings in the bower. That very morning her youngest son had been slain by the Norman marauder who had approved his title to Earl Leofric's possessions by the sword. Hereward and his scapegrace youth had been loudly invoked, but in vain. But if he was too late to save, he was not too late to avenge. He was not learned enough to counterfeit any handwriting on the wall, but his handiwork was marked in characters of blood, and Bourne was cleared of Frenchmen by the sword of one man.

Professor Kingsley's rides about Cambridge have stood him in good stead when he comes to describe the defence of the Isle of Ely, the last stand of the English. He has thrown quite a poetical aspect over the dull grey flats which surround his University for many a mile. It is the fashion to decry that very peculiar scenery, though the sunsets are perhaps more gorgeous in the fen than anywhere in England. An additional zest will now be afforded to the tedious walks of the Cantab, who tries to follow the gallops of Hereward on his famous mare, or to determine the exact spot where the magic of Torfrida was found to be more powerful than the magic of all the Conqueror's witches; or the remains of the causeway over which William marched into Ely, or the ditch in which so many of his bravest warriors were first ignominiously smothered. These are real triumphs for a novelist. To invest localities with national interest; to make the solitary eminence of a plain famous as the slope of a city hill; to re-people the neighbourhood of monasteries long since forgotten with the forms who flourished under that strange civilization, is no mean gift to the literature of a country. All this has been well done. If the mighty Wake did not live or die exactly as is here set down, he might have done so. "Small blame to him" if he is grateful to a true descendant of the Scalds this day.

NEW NOVELS.

Unconventional. A Novel. By Thomas Sutton, B.A., Editor of "Photographic Notes," &c. 3 Vols. (S. Low & Co.)

MANY sun pictures are notoriously but caricatures. Meaning to captivate the beholder by the graceful attitude he assumes, Jones places himself, like Monsieur Jabot of old, *en position*, and straightway the sun paints him with a gouty leg in advance of a shrunken limb. Brown desires to go down to posterity with a smile upon his countenance, the benefactor of his species, and the sun, which would seem to know his real character better, exaggerates the protruding head and raised eyeballs into something almost as hideous as a death's-head placed over the lich-porch of a village church. Robinson, a lover of coins, and the possessor of a Queen Anne's farthing, determines to perpetuate both facts, and holding the latter in considerable advance of him, the face of the queen on the little coin stretches itself forth, nearly as large as his own, to greet the enthusiastic collector with a kiss.

This is just the exaggeration of all the characters in "Unconventional." We have never met with a tale more inartistically put together—more illustrative, to use a technical term, of the cheap photography of the penny studios, as opposed to that which is the result of the careful manipulation of the masters of the art. The book is crude in all its details, and even when the author at-

tempts to be most graphic and pathetic, one feels that the effect is simply that produced by the employment of pasteboard architecture or badly-painted accessories. Throughout the whole there is not a single touch of nature; and, as we turn over page after page, wearied and tired, we long to come to that closing sentence, which, in the four millions of sermons annually preached to us, according to the statistics of Dean Ramsey, is generally the most welcome and edifying part of the discourse.

All subjects are alike to Mr. Sutton; from Calvinism to Calisthenics, he roams at will through the three volumes which he has devoted to the "Unconventional." The plot, if such it may be called, in this rambling story is left to develop itself from amidst a mass of irrelevant matter that has no object and but little good sense to redeem it. Photography, and its application to good or evil purposes, is the main drift of the writer, and its application by the painter and the sculptor, as accessory to the study of his art, are discussed in details, which reveal scenes of vice as painful as we know them to be true. Confined to one chief aim, such an insight might have proved valuable to the reader; but the result is not satisfactory, and the book is unfinished, inasmuch as that Lorenzo May, the father of the heroine, leaves his strange and cruel desertion of his wife and infant daughter in the island of Sark to be accounted for in "a separate romance," in which Mr. May's adventures "must have a separate frame, and be viewed apart. At some future time," Mr. Sutton says, "possibly his manuscript may be placed in the printer's hands; but I make no rash promises. That depends." With this wise reservation, the reading public must be satisfied; such posthumous remains are getting somewhat out of fashion.

The residence of Mrs. May and her young daughter Nelly, in Sark, furnishes the most pleasing part of the tale, as the author is well up in his description of the Channel Islands, and appreciates with evident enjoyment the beauty of both land and sea in his description of the localities. The passage boat from Guernsey, in its tumbledown condition, freighted with "a ton of gunpowder in barrels, and a sack of cartridges for the use of the Sark militia;" the crew consisting of "Tom Hudson, the commander," and "his two pals, Jim and Joe," together with three passengers, Mark Levisne and the Mays, is wrecked "upon a half-tide reef, a thousand yards from land, and with a tide running like a sluice between them and it." Mark is a first-rate swimmer, and saves the party by his boldness and pluck. Mrs. May, in gratitude to her preserver, welcomes him to her pretty cottage home; and Mark, who is a natural son and alone in the world, with five hundred pounds and a college education, which he has come to the Channel Islands to perfect, gladly accepts the situation as the friend of the family, and soon becomes the lover of little Nelly, who has attained the age of fifteen in unfettered enjoyment of an only child's liberty.

Miss Barbara and Miss Angelina Hobbs conduct a high-class school in Sark, and Nelly, as one of their pupils, is called to account for her independent bearing. Mrs. May, from ill health and sorrow at her husband's supposed death by drowning, but as she knows at his desertion, contends but little with opposing powers. Bridget does the faithful domestic duty in the cottage household, and lectures Nelly on the impropriety of "gallivanting with young chaps, and keeping the dinner waiting after the time appointed." "In fact," says Mr. Sutton, "Bridget was in a tremendous wax; so the poor child had to escape into the parlour, and was not quite sure that she would not be called over the coals there too." From these expressions it will be seen that both style and story are alike "unconventional," and when Mark, in obedience to Miss Barbara, who urges him to leave the island and enter himself at college without delay, leaving Nelly in her care to be trained up into what a young lady

ought to be, tears himself away and repairs to Cambridge and "Caius" forthwith, we rush into a sensational sort of category as perplexing as it is astounding.

In that "green little spot, called Granchester," Mark seeks country lodgings. Mistaking the direction given to him, he wanders into dilapidated rambling old premises of which a vicious dog has charge, according to the *cave canem* board, advising him to be "beware." Nothing daunted, the undergraduate makes good his entrance into this strange abode. "He walks boldly up to the front door—rings the bell—and is answered by a young Italian girl, beautiful as a houri, with dishevelled hair, naked feet, bare arms, and her graceful form swathed in a gorgeous velvet robe, tied loosely round her waist." In the master of the house, Mark recognizes a former acquaintance, a Greek Jew, one Xenosthes, a millionaire. Report describes "the Jew as a head partner in a firm engaged in the manufacture of bank notes by photography," and in this maze of wild adventure and temptation we leave the hero to make the reader's acquaintance.

This is certainly not a book to be digested according to Lord Bacon's maxim, scarcely perhaps to be tasted. Yet it has this merit, that, as the boy replied on returning from school, when asked by his parents where he stood in class, it holds "the second place of distinction, bottom not top;" so its position in literature being distinctively marked, it may serve like a finger-post on a cross-road to send the literary tyro in the contrary direction to that which it occupies itself. Mr. Sutton shall be his own judge:—

I will tell you what I think of Turner. He had an eye for pretty effects of light and shade—nothing more. Chiar'-oscuro was his forte, and he worked it to death. No true poet, or man of sense—and I hold that good poetry never does outrage common sense—Byron's poetry for instance—no true poet, I say, would have introduced such silly figures as he did into his pictures, or have given them such silly names. There is an incongruity in all this, which proves him to have been a mere child in all but just that one idea of chiar'-oscuro. But even as mere effects his pictures often want breadth, and are all wrong, because opposed to the known laws of optics. Wherever Turner fancied a light was wanting to look pretty, he put it in, and his darks the same. He knew nothing of that wondrous magic which is based on Truth, and which Rembrandt understood so well, which consists in carrying conscientiously all through your work the idea of one dominant light, and one dominant source of reflex light. Turner's works are a novelty, like Pickwick, or Vanity Fair, and people are pleased at first, but after a little repetition the trick is discovered, and the humbug bores you to death. They will not live. Posterity will laugh at them.

Rosewarne. By C. Sylvester. (Chapman & Hall.)

THE character of Mara appears to us rather to have been suggested by that of "Hypatia." She is an orphan brought up by a Lady Rosewarne, who instructs her in classical and much other learning which seldom forms a lady's course of study. Mara is a decided genius, teaches herself painting and music, &c. At little more than fifteen she is married to Lady Rosewarne's nephew, clandestinely. Philip Rosewarne has persuaded her to consent to be married at night by special license, having provided a clergyman who is not particular as to his office. A Mr. Tremaneer has also fallen in love with Mara, but being a Fellow of a college is too poor to make her an offer. Lady Rosewarne wishes Philip to marry a Miss Clare, an heiress, with sufficient money to buy a neighbouring estate. A grand theatrical party is got up for Miss Clare's behoof, and this affords Mara an opportunity of displaying her histrionic abilities. Philip Rosewarne ultimately marries Miss Clare on Lady Rosewarne's decease, and sends his attorney to pension off Mara. Mara retires with her son to a cottage near. In spite of revengeful feelings, she saves the infant of Lord and Lady Rosewarne from drowning. Lady

Rosewarne returns Mara's kindness, of which, however, she is not aware, by driving over Mara's son, and killing him. Mara has an interview with Lord Rosewarne, and leaves the body of her and his child in his library, and rushes off to the sea, where she is supposed to have made away with herself. She is picked up really by an emigrant ship, and taken to Australia. There she meets with a grand-nephew of the Dowager Lady Rosewarne's, who had quarrelled with that lady, and sought his fortune in the bush. Mara, having returned to England, discovers that she is the only rightful possessor of the Rosewarne title and estates, having been changed while a child. She proves her title, and her husband Philip, who was legally married to her in the old chapel, wishes to make it up with her. She will not, however, forgive him. Miss Clare, the Lady Rosewarne of the second marriage, runs away with a Mr. Gwatkin. Philip Rosewarne injures himself by falling down stairs at Rosewarne Castle, where he had gone to try and recover Mara's affections, she having by advice of the lawyers taken possession. She does forgive him during his last moments, but she has very little true forgiveness in her; for she is represented as a doubter on religious matters. Mara, now Leonora Rosewarne marries Tremaneer, and lives according to her lights; doing her duty without being a believer in revealed truths.

Rosewarne is a novel possessed of a good deal of interest; most of the *dramatis personæ* are well delineated, especially the fast young lady, Miss Clare, and her German companion. Mara herself quite absorbs our attention. The book is well written.

THE EDINBURGH REVIEW.

A reviewer of our modern "Musæ Britannicæ" evidently enjoys the high honours paid to the singular faculty some scholars still possess, even in this scientific age, of writing, as it is commonly phrased, "Greek and Latin verses." The most unsatisfactory specimens quoted are the translations of "In Memoriam." "There lives more faith in honest doubt, believe me, than in half the creeds," is most unclassically rendered by—

Plus fidei Dubio, mihi crede, existit honesto,
Quam que plerumque in Religione latet.

We will give another MS. essay for comparison's sake:—

Sis plus et dubites; sis qui bene symbola nôris,
Plus habet hic scripti, plus habet ille Dei.

But one stanza is beautifully done. Classics are also represented by a very elaborate article on "Grote's Plato." "Prince Charles of Hesse," a grandson of our George II., affords matter for one of those biographies, framed out of autobiographies, which form such pleasant reading when the mass of original matter is duly tempered with good cementitious criticism.

THE FORTNIGHTLY REVIEW.

We welcome any suggestions from a clerical point of view which admit that "the intellectual relations subsisting between priest and people need adjustment." It is perfectly true that "it is impossible for a man honestly to accept at once the positions that correct views on all points are necessary to salvation, and that every man has a right to his own opinions." Mr. Wynne rejoices in the recent changes in the form of clerical subscription, though he exhibits no wish himself to take any undue liberty in consequence. "Many may dislike Mr. Swinburne's 'Chastelard,'" says Lord Houghton, "but none can condemn it." The article itself is little but an abstract of the tragedy, but proper homage is done to that great effort of a rising genius. Altogether this number is the best we have seen for some time.

The Treasury of Bible Knowledge. By the Rev. John Ayre, M.A.; with Engravings and Maps. (Longmans.)—We have heard a friend of Mr. Ayre say that there is nothing which he has attempted without achieving success. However this may be, the present cannot be included amongst his "failures." Those who cannot afford the expense of Dr. Smith's larger work, will find everything they want here in a smaller compass. It is not a volume for careless admiration, but is, emphatically, a "Treasury."

Things new and things old are rolled out on every page. We can well believe Mr. Ayre when he says that "in the course of compilation I have gained some knowledge." He has spared no pains to increase the general fund of information on the most interesting of all subjects. And his words will find a ready response in all families, to whom this volume of the wonderful series it belongs to will be specially welcome—"On the great facts of the Bible, and the doctrines revealed therein, additional reading only strengthens my convictions."

English History from the Earliest Period to our own Times. With an Appendix, containing Tables of Battles, Sieges, Treaties, Biography, Colonies, and Contemporary Sovereigns. Expressly Designed to Assist Students preparing for Examination. By W. M. Lupton. (Longmans).—Those who hide will be sure to find; and we may also expect those who set papers for examination will come to know exactly the sort of answers they ought to get. At the same time, they will become aware how difficult it is for those who have to be "crammed" to turn all their energies exactly in the right direction. And this will be brought still more home to those on whom the sad duty of "cramming" shall fall. The future Duke of Marlborough can no longer depend upon Shakespeare for his English History. "Lupton" must be a much more household word with him. It is quite appalling to think of the amount of erudition displayed in this performance. Yet it does not appear to be in any way overdone. Whatever page we turn to contains dates, facts, and events which might very well be subjects for posing questions. To master the volume would be quite beyond human industry. But in the hands of a judicious instructor, it cannot fail to be indispensable to every candidate for the civil, naval, or military services.

An Index to the Pedigrees contained in the Printed Herald's Visitations, &c., &c. By G. W. Marshall. (Hardwicke.)—The title of this manual is enough to indicate the nature of the book. The only questions to be considered are whether there is reason to suppose the index perfect, and whether the volume is well got up. That the publisher and printer have done their parts well is clear at a glance, and there is every reason to believe Mr. Marshall has been equally careful. To test his accuracy can be done, of course, only by those who want to make use of his labours. They will be many in number, and he cannot hope to escape their criticism. "Many of the official Visitation," says he in his preface, "have been printed, but no general index of them has been made. The present work is intended to supply this want, and may be said to form a companion to Mr. Sims' valuable Catalogue of the Pedigrees recorded in the Herald's Visitations, in the Harleian, and other MSS. in the British Museum." One excellent idea has been worked out. "As far as possible, the name of the principal place at which the family resided is added." There is no book which will soon be more familiar to the students in the reading-room of the British Museum.

MISCELLANEA.

THE late Jared Sparks has left his historical manuscript papers, bound in volumes, to his son temporarily, and ultimately to Harvard College, Mass., "on the express condition that the said manuscripts shall always be kept together in one case, and be opened to the inspection of such persons as are authorized to consult books in the said library, under such rules as will secure their safe and careful preservation, and that no part of them shall ever be allowed to be taken out of the library building."

MR. GEORGE R. JESSE, who has given us two charming volumes on "The British Dog," is the son of our old friend Edward Jesse, who published "Anecdotes of Dogs," in 1846, a book frequently reprinted.

AT the Maison Silvestre, in Paris, M. Potier will sell by auction, on Wednesday next, and six following days, the well-known collection of rare and curious books and manuscripts which formed the library of M. P. Desq, of Lyons.

MR. ROBERT HARRISON, of the London Library, is preparing for the press a memoir of Mr. John Black, for some years editor of the *Morning Chronicle*, after Mr. Perry's death. Professor Stokes, of Dublin, has undertaken to furnish a memoir of the late Dr. John Petrie, to be prefixed to his literary remains, for the editing

of which a committee of his friends has lately been formed in that city. Both these gentlemen request the loan of papers and letters which may help to render their labours more perfect.

MR. JAMES A. HEWITT, in *Notes and Queries*, propounds the following derivation of the military term *forlorn hope*. We give it for what it is worth, merely premising that Cromwell used the word *forlorn* without its post-fix *hope*: "Our *forlorn* of horse marched within a mile of where the enemy was drawn up," and that Philemon Holland, in his translation of Livy, makes the term *forlorn hope* represent the light troops, "*qui primi agminis erant*," the *velites*, the *rorarii*, and the *ferentarii* of the Romans. "Military and civil writers of the present day," says Mr. Hewitt, "seem quite ignorant of the true meaning of this expression. The adjective has nothing to do with despair, nor the substantive with the 'charmer which lingers still behind'; there was no such poetical depth in the words as originally used. Every corps marching in an enemy's country had a small body of men at the head (*haupte* or *hope*, or perhaps *haufen*, a troop,) of the advanced guard, and which was termed the *forelorn hope* (*lorn* being here but a termination similar to *ward* in *forward*), while another small body at the head of the rear-guard was called *rearlorn hope*. See 'A Treatise of Ireland,' by John Dymmok, p. 32, written about 1600, and printed by the Irish Archaeological Society in 1843. A reference to Johnson's Dictionary proves that civilians were misled, as early as the time of Dryden, by the mere sound of a technical military phrase, and in process of time even military men forgot the true meaning of the words. It grieves me to sap the foundation of an error to which we are indebted for Byron's beautiful phrase: 'Full of hope, misnamed forlorn.'"

It is by no means improbable that Professor von Sybel, of Bonn, who is now in Paris, means to redeem his promise, and prove, not only that the letters recently published as those of Marie Antoinette, by Count Vogt von Hunolstein, and for which that gentleman is said to have paid about 4,000*l.*, are all forgeries, but also, by the production of certain *liasses*, bundles of papers, letters, and accounts, belonging to the Imperial Library, expose the source from which the paper was obtained upon which they are written, and thus by easy gradation point out the person who committed the forgery. M. Tachereau, one of the Directors of the Imperial Library, is said to lend a most willing hand, and report points to a well-known collector of autographs as likely to be seriously affected by the exposure.

THE new Naval and Military Club, Cambridge House, the late residence of Lord Palmerston, was opened to members on Tuesday last.

THE Guildhall Working Men's Exhibition closed on Tuesday last, the Lord Mayor presiding, and Mr. Peabody distributing the prizes.

It is proposed to sell the Museum of the late Mr. Roualeyn Gordon Cumming, now on view at Fort Augustus in Inverness-shire, in one lot, if a purchaser can be found prior to the 14th of next month.

THE Rev. Daniel Moore, the new incumbent of the church of the Holy Trinity, Paddington, was Hulsean Lecturer in 1864, not in 1844, as stated by a typographical error in our last. Mr. Moore will retain the incumbency of Camden Church, Camberwell, till Midsummer next.

FRENCH literature and art are represented in the committee of subscribers to the testimonial to the veteran George Cruikshank by MM. Fourrier and Michel, and MM. Doré and Nadar.

"LES APÔTRES," by Ernest Rénan, was published on the 13th instant. Its first sale has not been equal to that of the "*Vie de Jésus*," the cause of which the *Evénement* gives in the words of the old proverb: "*Il est mieux de s'attaquer au bon Dieu qu'à ses saints*."

AMONGST the most significant signs of the times is the visit of the Archbishop of Paris, the head of the Catholic Church in France, to M. de Pressensé, the Protestant minister, whose reply to Rénan's "*Vie de Jésus*" we reviewed in No. 169 of THE READER, to thank M. de Pressensé for that defence of the inspired writings.

THE memorial to the late Mr. Keble, it is said, will be the foundation of a new college at Oxford bearing his name.

THE late Dr. Whewell's executors have determined on selling his library at Cambridge by public auction in May. His collection of mathematical instruments will be disposed of at the same time. It is becoming quite the practice to

sell similar collections on the spot instead of removing them to London for sale, where a secret understanding prevails among many of the dealers in second-hand books, known as the "knock-out system," by which the books are bought by the clique amongst themselves without opposition to one another at the public sale, and then resold at an after private sale, and the profits divided amongst its members. Of course, the respectable members of the trade do not lend themselves to such an irregular transaction, but the bulk of books sold by auction are not bought by them.

WE copy from Mr. Waller's "Catalogue of Autographs and Unpublished Documents," just issued, an interesting letter from William Cecil, Lord Burleigh, under date of Aug. 8, 1582, which furnishes the name of Queen Elizabeth's money-broker or banker, Alderman Martyn, the money being wanted probably either for her secret negotiation of marriage with the Duke of Anjou, or for paving the way to the treaty with the Netherlands in 1585, which but two years previously to this sending of these "two treasures over the seas," had withdrawn all subjection to Philip of Spain. The holograph runs thus: "To my loving friend, Mr. Robert Peetre, of the Receipt. I have received yesterday from hir Majesty that she meaneth to send shortly two treasures over the seas which she would have to be in gold coinage to be current there, &c. I pray you therefor resort to Alderman Martyn and know in what time he can provide any soe, &c., stray gold current in ye low countreys, and thereof I pray you certefy Mr. Sec. Walsyngham, for so he hath required of me. Lett me know what you can herein do. Aug. 8, 1582. Your lov. friend, W. BURGHLEY."

MR. J. PHILLIPS DAY, author of "English America; or, Pictures of Canadian Places and People," is going out to Canada as Reuter's correspondent, to watch the Fenian movement and the dispute between Canada and the United States about fishing in Canadian waters.

DURING the thirty-five days that the Industrial Exhibition at Guildhall was open, 41,576 persons were admitted by payment, and 2,500 children of the ward and day schools were admitted free. The total number of exhibitors was 827, exhibiting 1,521 articles, 32 of which were ineligible for prizes. The latter consisted of 99 medals and 94 honorary mentions.

MR. HENRY HOARE, the banker, who met with a serious accident whilst travelling by rail from London to Cambridge, in March, 1865, died on Monday last at Staplehurst. Mr. Hoare was educated at John's College, Cambridge, and graduated in 1827. A memorial fund is already talked of, under the sanction of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and it is proposed to devote the money so raised to the foundation of Hoare Scholarships in that University.

THE *Times* of Thursday last gave a narrative of considerable interest respecting English captives amongst the Oghaden Somalis of Eastern Africa, said to be survivors from the wreck of the *St. Abbs*, which struck on the Island of San Juan de Nuova in June, 1855, when twenty-six of the passengers and crew were supposed to have gone down with the foundering vessel. There is every reason, however, to believe that the wreck floated to the mainland, near Magdsho, and that the survivors are now in captivity, in confirmation of which some hides have recently reached Zanzibar from the Oghaden Somalis, upon which English letters were carved. The subject has been brought under the notice of Government. One of the most intelligent of our missionaries, the Rev. Mr. Rebmann, is stationed at Rabbai Mpia, near Mombaz, and has frequently made journeys into the interior. He would probably be the most likely person to obtain authentic information, if properly supported.

DR. GRAVES, Dean of the Chapel Royal, Dublin, and a Senior Fellow of Trinity College, is to be the new Bishop of Limerick. The revenues of the see amount to 3,961*l.* a-year, and the Bishop is the patron of twenty-four livings.

AMONG the more recent American novelties we have to mention: "What I Saw on the West Coast of South and North America," illustrated, by W. H. Baxley;—"Grant and his Campaigns: a Military Biography," by H. Coppee;—"The Physiology of Man," illustrated, by A. Flint;—"The Constitution of Man, Physically, Morally, and Spiritually Considered," by B. F. Hatch;—"Literature in Letters; or, Manners, Art Criticism, &c., in the Correspondence of Eminent Persons," by J. P. Holcomb;—"The Life of John Hughes, First Archbishop of New York,"

by J. R. G. Hassard, portrait;—"Notman's Portraits of British Americans: with Biographical Sketches by T. Taylor," Parts I.—V., just published at Montreal;—"A Practical Handbook for Miners, Metallurgists, and Assayers," by J. Silversmith;—and "The World," by the Author of "The Wide, Wide World."

DR. C. A. ABBING adds an interesting sketch of the childhood and youth of Cicero to our stores of Classical biographies, under the title of "Letterkundig Leven van M. T. Cicero, in zijne Kindsheid en eerste Jongelingsjaren." At this moment a Dutch view of the balance of power possesses some interest. M. J. I. Van Doorninck gives us: "De Staatkunde der Nederlandsche Republiek van 1697 tot 1795, in Betreking tot het Evenwigt van Europa." Mr. C. D. Busken Huet has written, "Ada van Holland. Historisch-litterarische Schets."

WE saw the other day at Waller's, in Fleet-street, a copy of two letters privately reprinted by Wordsworth, the poet, from the *Morning Post* in a duodecimo volume, on the blank leaf of which is written by him, with his initials W.W. added: "A relative of mine, about thirty years older than myself, being congratulated on the great advantage she must have had in being brought up in the romantic county of Cumberland, said, 'Don't think about it, when I was young there were no Lakes and Mountains.'" The date on the fly-leaf is "Rydal Mount, Aug. 18, 1845."

THE Shakespeare banquet, provided under the will of the late Mr. T. P. Cooke at the Dramatic College, Maybury, on the anniversary of the poet's birth, will take place on Monday next, with Mr. Webster in the chair, and Mr. Creswick as vice-president.

MR. F. A. BROCKHAUS, of Leipsig, has just published "Histoire de la Guerre de 1813 en Allemagne, par le Lieut.-Colonel Charras." Colonel Charras died last year in exile in Switzerland, and this posthumous work of the author of the "Histoire de la Campagne de 1815—Waterloo," of which four large editions were exhausted, has been eagerly looked forward to in Germany.

BIBLIOGRAPHERS will welcome the second portion of Mr. F. A. Brockhaus's "Antiquarischer Katalog: Geschichte und deren Hilfswissenschaften." The portion relating to Poland and Russia has been struck off separately, and contains 1,503 works, none of modern date, relating to the history, Church-history, and geography of those countries, many of which are of the greatest rarity. Mr. Brockhaus also issues "Catalogue d'une Précieuse Collection de Livres relatifs à l'Etude de la Linguistique, et des Langues et Litteratures Orientales." His *Antiquarischer Anzeiger*, No. XVII., is devoted to Natural History and Mathematics; No. XVIII., to Original Editions of the Works of Luther and his Contemporaries; and No. XIX., to the Productions of the Aldine Press at Venice, and of Bernard Turrissanus at Paris; some of which vary from the descriptions of them given by MM. Renouard and Brunet and Dr. Grasse. These catalogues may be obtained through Messrs. D. Nutt & Co., 170 Strand, and of Messrs. Trübner & Co., 66 Paternoster Row.

MESSRS. MOXON & Co. are negotiating with M. Gustave Doré for the illustrations he has designed for Tennyson's "Idylls of the King." Thirty in number, they comprise some of M. Doré's happiest creations, and will be engraved in the highest style of art in London.

HIPPOLYTE BELLANGÉ, whose pictures of the Napoleon campaigns and battle-scenes are so much admired, died last week, at the age of sixty-five.

MR. A. W. THAYER, United States Consul at Trieste, has been engaged for more than fifteen years upon a life of Beethoven, the first volume of which is now in the press at Berlin.

BARON MAROCHETTI is desirous that it should be known that the recent fire on his premises caused only the destruction of part of the roof of an unimportant small building, and that nothing has been injured inside the premises.

THE Colenso controversy is bringing forward some very remarkable assertions, made, we believe, in all sincerity by the opponents of the Bishop. The Natal papers give the correspondence between the Vicar-General at Cape Town, Dean Green, and the Rev. A. Tonnesen, the only clergyman there who has openly professed his adherence to the Bishop, for which act of contumacy his stipend from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has been discontinued. In one of his letters the Dean says: "Fallen

spirits may use their subtle intellect to cavil at and condemn the Bible, whilst in heaven we believe it read with ineffable love and deepest veneration. This the Church also seeks to do—from the other it recoils."

MR. WILLIAM JACKSON, one of the persons who are prominently mentioned in Mr. Smiles's "Self Help," died on Sunday last at Bradford, at the age of fifty. Mr. Jackson was a self-taught musician, and gained considerable reputation by his "Deliverance of Israel," and "The Year." He was born at Masham, in the West Riding, but had been resident in Bradford for more than fifteen years as a professor of music.

ACCORDING to Reuter's Telegram, which gave the news received by the Cape mail on Monday last, it was expected that the relative rights of the Metropolitan and the Bishop of Natal would come before the Legislative Council in the form of a bill transferring all Church property from the trusteeship of the Bishop of Cape Town to that of the Bishop of Natal for the time being.

MESSRS. BARKER & SONS' "Joint-Stock Companies' Directory" for 1866, in addition to the particulars of public companies, gives a list of the principal financial transactions concluded during the last five years.

A SUBSCRIPTION has been set on foot by a number of the friends of the late C. H. Cooper, F.S.A., Town-Clerk of Cambridge, and author of "Athenæ Cantabrigienses," in order to have a bust of him executed and placed in the Town Hall. As the late Mr. Cooper was highly esteemed by both the town and the University, there will be no difficulty in obtaining funds for a suitable memorial.

UNDER the head of "Diplomatia Latia," our contemporary the *Examiner* has a capital squib, by way of a letter from Pope "Pius to Napoleon," but we have only space for the concluding paragraph, which runs thus: "Sed redire ad nostros oves. Volo interea precari te linquere tuos milites paulum amplius in hac urbe. Sunt tam amabiles! Et, ut potes bene supponere, idea dandi sursum meam mollem Apostolicam sellam hic, ad meum tempus vite, est confusè displicens. Dicam tibi quid; sub hanc parvam conditionem, quamquam odi peregrinans, et expecto esse terribiliter æger, ibo ad Massiliam coronare te. Illic! Non possumus—confunde id, volo dicere non possum—dicere pulchrius quam illud. Da et cape. Vive et permittite vivere. Habeo nullas novitates, exceptis quibusdam particularibus tumultus fidelium in Barlettâ, qui ut exemplar fidei naturaliter calefecit meum paternum vetus cor, et spero titillabit tuum in quodam gradu. Traxerunt deorsum ministrorum domos sicut hilaritas, et flagellaverunt unum aut duo hereticos; vix satis quidem. Et nunc, vetus sodalis, ad Deum. Plus potestatis tuo cubito. Sperans replicationem ad tuam matutinissimam convenientiam, maneo semper tuus affectionatus vetus Pater P. P.—Amor mea carissima filie Imperatrici. Si unquam fuit Sancta in crinolina, illa est."

THE Rev. W. H. Thompson, M.A., Regius Professor of Greek, Cambridge, was installed as Master of Trinity College on Tuesday last. The ceremony, which was according to traditional custom, was curious. At twelve the college gates were closely barred. At a quarter past, the Master Elect, in full academical costume, walked up the street to the Great Gate, and smote on the smaller door. The porter opened it, inquired who he was, received the patent, and then barred the door, leaving him waiting outside. The patent was then taken to the Combination Room, where the Vice-Master and Fellows were assembled, and inspected by them. This done, they proceeded in a body to the gate, the great door was unbarred, and the Master Elect was admitted and formally welcomed. He was then conducted into the chapel, the doors of which were closed to all save the Fellows of the College, the patent was formally read, and the Master having made the usual declaration to observe the statutes of the college, signed the admission book: "Gulielmus Hepworth Thompson, professione factus admissus, 17 Aprilis, 1866;" and was conducted to his stall by the Vice-Master. The chapel doors were then thrown open, and the *Te Deum* sung by the choir, and the Master was conducted to his lodge by the Fellows, amidst loud cheers from the assembled undergraduates.

HERR HUMBURG, a Berlin bookseller, has been sent to prison for a month, for publishing a translation into German of "Pauvre France," a libel upon the Emperor Napoleon.

THE READER.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21, 1866.

ABOUT THE STREETS.

[No. VI.]

THE BLIND TRAVELLER.

HABITUÉS familiar with the London of twenty years ago will remember the figure of a blind gentleman, who was frequently to be met walking at a quick pace in the streets, with one hand linked in the arm of a servant, whom he seemed to guide rather than to be guided by. The form was spare, and the step light and buoyant. The face was intelligent, with a pleasant and kindly expression, not wholly free from traces of physical suffering, and it acquired a special character, almost oriental, from a long beard which latterly had grown nearly white. With the exception of a hat of more than ordinary breadth of brim, the costume was plain and unpretending. There used to be some strange speculations about this remarkable person, and some still stranger stories. But the unembellished facts of his life are more striking and impressive than any of the wonders supplied by the popular imagination.

That a man who was totally blind should have traversed nearly every country on the face of the habitable globe—for this brisk pedestrian was James Holman, better known all over the world as the Blind Traveller—is marvel enough. But when we try to realize the details of wondrous journeys through strange races, strange climates, and strange tongues, knowing by our own limited experience the energy, endurance, and vigilance required to carry a man with all his senses about him safely through such an ordeal, the statement appears nearly incredible. Yet Holman not only accomplished these achievements without incurring a solitary mischance of a serious nature, but accomplished them under circumstances which deepen the interest that attaches to them.

James Holman entered the Navy at an early period, and lost his sight at the age of twenty-five, while engaged in his professional duties. From the moment when the sentence of final darkness was pronounced upon him, he made up his mind to adapt himself to his new situation. There is a passage in "Othello"—the excellent advice given by the Duke to *Brabantio* upon the loss of his daughter—which Holman was fond of quoting, and which accurately embodies one of the golden rules of his own life. He never indulged in fruitless regrets, but, with a cheerfulness and bravery of heart which imparted at once serenity and resolution to his character, was always ready to make the best of the most untoward events. Here is the passage:—

When remedies are past, the griefs are ended,
By seeing the worst, which late on hopes depended.

To mourn a mischief that is past and gone,
Is the next way to draw new mischief on.
What cannot be preserved when fortune takes,
Patience her injury a mockery makes.
The robbed who smiles, steals something from the thief;

He robs himself, who spends a bootless grief.

The question has often been asked,
When did the passion for travelling first

develop itself in Holman, before or after he lost his sight? It is not easy to answer that question. His mind had always been active, and a certain love of movement and adventure no doubt originally influenced him in the choice of a profession. But it was not till after he became blind that the desire to visit foreign countries seized upon him as the great purpose of his existence. He was then free to indulge his taste, was untrammelled by the obligations of a professional career, and was fortunate in the possession of sufficient means to enable him to accomplish his wishes.

Perhaps the most remarkable circumstance connected with his travels is the somewhat startling fact that he always travelled alone. At home in the streets of London, or down at Windsor, where he lived in Traver's College, the quiet and pleasant sanctuary of the Naval Knights, he never went out without a servant. Wherever he dined or visited, his servant accompanied him. But upon the deck of the vessel by which he sailed from England he always dismissed his attendant, whom he never would suffer to proceed any farther with him. Utterly alone, and in "total eclipse" amongst strangers, and going to lands of which he knew nothing, he thenceforward did for himself everything that had previously been done for him by others. His moral courage and self-reliance, which conquered great difficulties, were equally successful in vanquishing the petty troubles and vexations which most travellers consider still more formidable.

His first voyage was to France. He did not at that time know a word of the language. "Behold me," he exclaims, "in France, surrounded by a people, to me, strange, invisible, and incomprehensible; separated from every living being who could be supposed to take the least interest in my welfare or existence; and exposed to all the influences of national prejudice." That was nearly half a century ago, before railroads and steamboats, in the tedious days when it took upwards of three hours with a fair wind to cross from Dover to Calais, and when the diligence occupied twenty-one hours on the road from Calais to Paris. Holman has recorded as a memorable coincidence, that the day on which he crossed the Channel in this, his first sightless expedition, 15th of October, 1819, was the anniversary of his birthday, and also the same day of the year on which, after he lost his sight, he set out for Edinburgh to commence a course of studies in the University. This last incident is a characteristic illustration of the mental activity that distinguished his entire career.

Throughout the whole of this journey, which extended into Switzerland, Italy, Germany, and the Netherlands, he appears to have met with but one *contre-temps*, and even that was of a farcical rather than a serious character. Arriving at Bourdeaux in the diligence, he found that all the passengers got out, and left him to shift for himself. It was raining in torrents. In vain he called for help. All was still. He dared not leave the vehicle, as he should not have known what to do next, and he should, moreover, have been drenched to no purpose. So he remained passive. Presently the diligence was surrounded by a noisy crowd of people, talking vociferously, and soon afterwards he was

conscious of an extraordinary, irregular motion, the people occasionally opening the doors, and turning him from side to side, as if they were shifting him for balance. He imagined from this singular circumstance that they were taking off the wheels, with the intention of putting the carriage under cover. This speculation was soon dissipated, however, by a loud splashing noise of water rising and falling and gurgling about him. The motion and the noise continued to increase, until at the end of an hour, to his infinite satisfaction, the horses were again attached to the diligence, the passengers re-entered, and the party proceeded on their journey. This mysterious incident was susceptible of a simple solution. It was necessary on reaching the river Dordogne, which flows into the Garonne at Bourdeaux, to transport the diligence on a raft down the stream, while the passengers, crossing the river in a ferry-boat, were taken to their destination on the other side in a carriage. All the time that Holman believed he was sitting in the coach-office yard at Bourdeaux, he was making a voyage of four miles in a raft, without having the least suspicion of being the hero of such an adventure.

In 1822, he published his first volume of travels, dedicated to the Princess Augusta. It embraced three years of wandering, including France, Italy, Savoy, Switzerland, the Rhenish Provinces, Holland, and what was then the Netherlands. The book ran through four editions. Having carried his work through the press, he set out again; and three years more were spent abroad. On his return he published the results in two volumes, dedicated to the King.

The ground traversed in these volumes was, for the most part, more remote and difficult of access than any of the countries he had previously visited. In addition to Austria and a considerable part of Germany, he penetrated into Russia, Siberia, and Poland, where he was not only less likely to fall in with any of his own countrymen, but was exposed to hazards and discomforts that surrounded him with difficulties at every step. Still, quite alone, not understanding a word of the Polish or Russian languages, scarcely meeting any one who could speak French, of which, by this time, he had picked up a smattering, he persevered in spite of all obstacles, and succeeded in prosecuting his journey into Siberia, two thousand miles beyond Tobolsk. A solitary blind man pursuing such a route without any apparent object naturally excited suspicion, and the authorities concluded that he must be a spy. He was accordingly prohibited from proceeding any further, and conducted as a State prisoner to the Austrian frontier, by an express mandate of the Emperor Alexander. Again and again he remonstrated, and endeavoured to ascertain why he was considered of so much importance as to be taken under the special care of the Government; but the only explanation he ever received was that the Government was actuated by anxiety for his safety. But there must have been graver apprehensions at the bottom, or the Emperor would hardly have sent a lieutenant of field-jagers nearly 5,000 miles to attend his movements, and see him safely out of his Imperial Majesty's dominions. This field-jager did his duty with tolerable civility, but with inexorable fidelity. He never lost sight of Holman; always walked

out with him, although he hated walking; always dined out with him wherever he dined; and being anxious to be relieved of an attendance which was as irksome to him in one way as it was to Holman in another, hurried the poor traveller out of the country as fast as he could. Holman resisted this surveillance with as much determination as could be effectually brought to bear under such circumstances, and often carried his point, notwithstanding that the local authorities were constantly called in to enforce the imperial order. There is no doubt, however, that Holman was as glad when it was over as his companion. He and the feld-jäger had travelled nearly five thousand miles together, and although they had many skirmishes, they never came to an open rupture, and as they were about to part, all asperities disappeared between them. It was seven o'clock on a March morning when they reached the last post station in the Polish territory, and here Holman had to hire a little basket-work carriage and a pair of horses to take him to Cracow. At this place the feld-jäger delivered up the traveller's passport, and they took leave of each other with mutual congratulations. "I immediately drove forward," says Holman, "in the direction of Cracow, when I might well say I had the world before me, and Providence for my guide, since my postillion and myself were quite incapable of exchanging a sentence with each other."

Holman's last publication, the most important in point of extent and variety, was a voyage round the world, including travels in Africa, Asia, Australasia, and America, from 1827 to 1832, in four volumes, dedicated to the Queen. But this work did not exhaust his store of matter. He left a large mass of MSS. behind him, which he was preparing for publication when death terminated his labours.

We must reserve for a separate paper, an estimate of the character of this remarkable man, drawn from intimate knowledge and long intercourse. We have here touched, and that only slightly, on these features of his life which may be presumed to be more or less known to the public.

PENNY WISE.*

NEW movements, either intellectual or simply amusing, are like new inventions or importations in slang. Their very newness gives them a free currency for a time, and it is not until they have nearly reached their climax that they are usually fairly criticised and honestly judged. Whilst they are new, any adverse judgment is either put down to puffery, cynicism, or lack of wit, and the force of a young enthusiasm carries everything before it. We have seen this repeatedly during the last few years. One must hear, and see, and feel, and quiet one's judgment by a promissory note payable in three months' time. But this enthusiasm has its ebb, these patty-pan ebullitions soon end some way or other, and there comes a time when sober sense, and mayhap trenchant criticism, are wanted and welcomed. If people have been unwise or foolish, they accept a good trouncing as they acquiesce in the responses

of the Litany, and pass on refreshed to something else.

If these remarks are true of anything, they are true of Penny Readings. They have had a most wonderful run everywhere. Large towns have been magnetized by them, and quiet country towns and little villages have gone into ecstasies over them. Severe, impassive persons have renounced their seclusion, neglected their studies, and forgotten themselves in the midst of this wave of enthusiasm. Every country curate, anxious to do good, and wishing to be popular, has tried his hand at them, and found untold benefits possible to arise out of them. From submitting to be read to in public, people were to pass into being readers by their own firesides, and every family was to be a miniature of a public meeting. Cosy bar-parlours were to be emptied, local gossip and politics superseded, manners polished and softened, night-schools common and flourishing, hard books eagerly sought for and devoured: yea, even a newer edition of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* called for immediately, and cheap at double its price. All good books, in fine, were to become scarce, and realize Mr. Ruskin's notion of value, by being "coveted for a year at a bookstall, bought out of saved halfpence, and perhaps a day or two's fasting."

The movement began well, and unquestioned; but it so gradually changed its character, that some failed to see its tendency, and went on pushing it. It was to make men and women sober and sensible, readers of good books, and thinkers of pure and lofty thoughts. It was to be a culture to those who could not well secure any other. It was thought an improvement upon the lecture, and more elevating than the stage. But it rapidly became worse than the former, and the weakest possible imitation of the latter. It came, in fact, to stand to the stage like claret does to port, in the terms of the wag who said of the former that "it tried to be port and couldn't." This is just what penny readings have done. When most successful, they have most resembled the stage, and the stage when it aims simply to amuse. Readers have murdered Shakespeare, until an interpreter as clever as the brothers in the "Tale of the Tub" might find that the curse on his grave-stone refers solely to such triflers with his dry bones. Milton, Burke, and Macaulay have fared no better. But the most popular and successful readings have been the comic ones. Living humorists have been almost exhausted, and Hood and Barham have been read until they are as tame and insipid as cold veal four days old. Yea, we have often thought, when hearing poor Hood used up in this way, that if he could but have foreseen it, he would have followed the Genius that beckoned him to theology, as he thought, even late in his life, and have thundered out terrible philippics against wit-frittering, froth-whipping, and vain bibble-babble.

The result of all this is, that Penny Readings have become mere amusements, and nothing more. You pay your penny—alas! your sixpence or shilling sometimes—and you get *Punch* diluted, and penny acting. The working classes, for whom these readings were intended, have long ceased to care for them, except in a few places. If they go at all, they go to laugh; and if they learn anything, it is the humiliating fact that their betters think they can be

made wiser and better by mere giggle and oddity. If they ask themselves what books their superiors in birth and education prize most highly, they must judge by what they read most of in public, begin with the "Snob Papers," and end with Artemus Ward and Hosea Biglow. The better classes go to see how their friends will read, or what so-and-so will make out of his piece, or to see a proser discomfited, or a serious man affect the funny. Or they go to the readings because it is the only transparent amusement accessible, and not yet condemned from the pulpit.

Of course, we cannot object to all this. Amusement is healthy, desirable, and rational. Innocent amusement is, of all others, most to be cultivated, but do not let us call it edification, or expect it to be culture. It may revive forgotten wits and works, and so far will do good even to educated people. It may make men cultivate good reading and speaking; it may even foster embryo parliamentary orators, and quiver their memories with swift and terrible shafts, but it cannot well do much more. It can never supersede the stage, nor rival the good lecture for point and power. It will never make thinkers nor reasoners; men of sense nor men of honour. It will never empty our taverns, nor transmute our boozes; and if the working classes are to be made what the pennywise people fondly dream they are making them, we may rest assured it can only be by leading them to follow in the old paths of wisdom, and stimulating them to the toils that have made other men wise and good, happy and honourable. Wisdom, in all reverence be it said, is no respecter of persons; and if royalty cannot leap into learning, neither can others laugh into wisdom.

THE SCIENCE OF DRESS.*

IT is confessedly a matter of great difficulty to propound any adequate definition of the word gentleman, when used in the popular acceptance of the term; but it hardly seems too much to say that its fashionable connotation, in addition to the indispensable requisite of polish of manner, implies also a certain amount of skill in the selection of a becoming style of dress. However much we may attempt to disguise the fact, it cannot well be denied that there is a prevalent tendency on the part of mankind in general to be prepossessed in favour of such persons as habitually display care and taste in the arrangement of the outer man. The deceitfulness of fair appearances has been a fertile theme with all moralists, from Solomon to Tupper; and in a vague kind of way the most unphilosophic of mortals have been always ready to admit the truth of the proposition; but, in spite of all this, there is a notion, deeply rooted in human nature, that the hero of neatly-made boots and faultlessly-cut clothes is probably endowed with valuable and attractive qualities, which we might search for in vain in the man who is content to shuffle through life entirely careless as to the fit of his coat, or to the period at which it may have last known the brush. It is not unlikely that this idea is to a

* "Etiquette for Gentlemen: The Toilet." (Frederick Warne & Co.)

"Etiquette for Gentlemen: Hints on the Toilette." (W. Stevens, Family Herald Office, 421, Strand.)

* *Penny Readings in Prose and Verse.* By S. E. Carpenter. Three Vols. (F. Warne & Co.)

THE READER.

21 APRIL, 1866.

great extent fostered by the state of society in which we live. People have so little time for much more than superficial observation of those with whom they are thrown in daily contact, that it is impossible to avoid being influenced to a great degree by the exterior which they present. Virtue, says Juvenal, is seldom seen in company with a threadbare coat; and there appears nothing extravagant in the supposition that a neatly-clothed body is, to a certain extent, indicative of a well-ordered mind. But there is an æsthetic, besides an ethical, significance in the appearance of the well-dressed man. To make the best that can be made of the physical gifts which nature may have been pleased to bestow, requires no small amount of perception and of taste. The sphere allotted for the exercise of these faculties, in the case of masculine attire, is of course infinitely narrower than that enjoyed by milliners and modistes; but the truly artistic spirit may be able to infuse an air of poetry even into the prosaic world of trousers and frock-coats. Indeed, if it was only known, it is not improbable that there might be found countless outlets for the exercise of creative genius in a host of undiscovered methods for the better arrangement of the cravat. Material elegance may thus assist us towards a realization of spiritual and ideal beauty; and perhaps the labours of those who invest the graceful forms of fashionable exquisites with the most perfect raiment that human ingenuity can devise, may, after all, be but a series of struggles to reproduce, however feebly, what has been dimly seen in glimpses of some celestial type.

If national legislation has ceased to busy itself with the minute details of domestic life, there still exist sources from which advice may be procured on almost every point which can engage the attention of mankind. Law-givers may no longer tell us what we are to do, and what we are to wear, in various situations and circumstances, but still we are not left without adequate instructions, if only we will take the trouble to go to those quarters where they may be found; it is but necessary that these precepts should be conscientiously followed, and the world would rapidly become a very different place to what it now is. There would no longer be anything which could pain the ear or offend the sight; universal courtesy, comeliness, and harmony would usher in a kind of social millennium. The framers of a revised code of manners are not unconscious of the importance of their mission. Old duties are enforced, but upon new grounds. The severest attention must be paid to personal appearance, but not that a selfish vanity may be gratified: "We owe it to society, our friends, to all with whom we may be brought in contact, to turn our personal attractions to the very best account." "Close study" is, of course, requisite for all this, and it must be ungrudgingly bestowed, for we must remember that "dress has a moral effect upon the conduct of mankind." But there is a terrible vagueness in this momentous monosyllable. What is dress? and how is a correct style of dress to be insured? On the one hand, it appears that a too rigid adherence to the decrees of Fashion will cause the victim to be "little more than an animated figure out of a tailor's showcard;" on the other hand, if there is any undue

departure from its rules, he will have been guilty of "a vulgarism and affectation." Aristotle declares it to be essential to the character of the genuinely liberal man that his presents shall never be out of proportion to his income, and shall always be bestowed upon appropriate objects. In the same way we are given to understand that "to be dressed in harmony with oneself, and one's surroundings, is to be well dressed." But, then, "one's surroundings" must be something, or else the reputation of a well-dressed man can never be gained. Indeed, the description which our mentor furnishes of the necessary paraphernalia is somewhat alarming to the uninitiated. "Every article of which, by the way, should be of the best description." The demands of fashion are sufficiently exacting; and it is terrible to contemplate how much time her votary must dedicate to the pursuit of the one object of his existence. He is permitted to wear ordinary boots in the presence of his own despicable sex; but should ladies appear, it is hinted that he will do well to effect an expeditious change, and to appear in "silk stockings and pumps." As for the jewellery which may bedeck his person, it must be of the most "valuable and substantial character;" the scents used must be "exquisitely delicate;" while the toilette to which he will have repeatedly during the day to submit must be elaborated with marvellous care. In fact, a halo of almost Oriental grandeur seems to pervade the atmosphere in which he will move. It is comforting to know that the aspirant to well-dressed fame may be permitted at exceptional periods to revel in a comparative laxity of attire. Indeed, "in the country, or by the seaside, or when travelling," a Tweed suit and even a felt hat "are allowable for morning wear." But there is one point upon which Fashion's laws are sternly immutable, "whether in town or country, always wear gloves." But gloves are of various kinds; one only is admissible for a hero, "the material must be kid, and the fit perfection." With the following significant maxim, our philosopher and friend concludes this portion of his advice, "A gentleman is known by his gloves."

These are but meagre specimens of the anxieties which beset the troublous path of those who would emulate the splendid career of a Brummell or a Nash. It is somewhat saddening to be reminded that, after all these have been passed, the perfection of dress is only attainable by a very few; and that, at the best, wretched men can never hope to achieve such triumphs as are reserved solely for female advantages and skill. Still, there remains comfort in the assertion that "patience and diligence will accomplish marvels." After what has already been said, it is needless to remark upon the absurdity of the old-fashioned maxim in praise of unadorned beauty. Nature, of course, is something, but art is a great deal more. Natural charms rapidly vanish, but those which art is powerful to bestow may endure for an indefinite period. No man, it is said, is a hero to his valet; but it is humiliating to reflect what mere nonentities man and woman-kind must alike appear to dressmakers and tailors. When it has once been established that between the science of ethics and of dress there is an inseparable connexion, it is obvious that the pretensions of

those professions whose main business it is to supply the community with various articles of apparel to an elevated rank in general estimation are sufficiently vindicated. Who can tell how important a part may be at the present time played by Mr. Poole and his followers in the regeneration of the world? On the other hand, for those who make it the aim of their existence to profit to the utmost by the labours of such artists as these, there is an immense deal of unflinching self-discipline to be undergone. They must forswear all manner of idle indulgences and petty luxuries. Personal display, and not personal comfort, must be the one consuming ambition which will regulate all the minor affairs of life. "The goddess of Fashion," to use the language of our æsthetic mentors, "is strangely capricious. She must be worshipped with singleness of heart, or it is better not to worship her at all." Indeed, it is to be feared lest the number of adorers whom this very exacting divinity may be able to secure will be always limited. Her service may open valuable opportunities for those who are possessed of considerable energy and taste, and have but few objects on which these can be expended; but for such as may object to this wholesale monopoly of their time and powers, the "temple of fashion" must, if we believe the solemn declaration of these her high priests, ever remain a veiled and inaccessible shrine.

PUBLICATIONS OF THE WEEK.

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THE READER.

21 APRIL, 1866.

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SCIENCE.

OWEN'S COMPARATIVE ANATOMY.

On the Anatomy of Vertebrates. Vol. II., Birds and Mammals. By Richard Owen, F.R.S., Superintendent of the Natural History Departments in the British Museum, Foreign Associate of the Institute of France, &c. (Longmans.)

THE first volume of Owen's great work on anatomy was reviewed by us at some length in THE READER of February 10; the recent appearance of the second volume necessitates some further remarks. We have no doubt that with a large section of the public the portion of the work which treats of birds and mammals will be productive of greater interest than that which more especially regarded the Hæmatocrya. This is not as it should be; yet it is perhaps quite as much as science can have a right to expect at the hands of the undiscerning masses. The aphorism of Goethe, "that to understand any object, the most simple phenomena should in the first place be regarded," is not acted on by the general students of zoology. They prefer to attempt to understand an object in nature, not as inspected from the point of view which regards the most simple aspects of life, but in its most complicated

form, and in the highest degree of specialization. Difficulty does not daunt them; and an inaccurate investigation too often leads to an impotent result. The true reason for the habitual pococurantism with which the phenomena of Life afforded by the inferior animals are disregarded, is the vagueness with which popular teaching inculcates any definite ideas respecting the position of most of the lower forms of Life. The amateur zoologist who desires to parade his little learning before the village Working Man's Institute, or the local "Mutual Improvement" Association, has need, in more than one sense, not to go below the level of the beasts. For so long as he tells his semi-dormant audience something amusing respecting the habits of giraffes and hippopotami, especially if he points to prettily painted diagrams on the wall, a patient hearing will continue to be afforded him. The mass of his attendants are fully aware that the echoes of a popular lecture are buzzing over their heads, and sleep on in tranquillity, as there is no need to wake till the cessation of the lecturer's voice announces to them that their applause is due for the highly interesting and scientific lecture they have so peacefully slept under. But let the deliverer of a single lecture on zoology tell them anything really important; let him dissect before their eyes one of the most simply constructed animals; let him show them that they cannot understand the more complex forms of Life until they shall have become fully and entirely acquainted with the leading pattern of construction in the most simple aspects, few will listen to him. If he points out to the local clodhopper that the waste of life of the small birds which he yearly perpetrates is really a source of injury to the farmer, he will provoke much scepticism; if he shows that the apprehensions which are entertained with regard to the venomous and non-venomous snakes are, in many cases, wholly groundless, a shrug of conscious negation will pass across the bucolic shoulders. If he tells the assembled audience that at one time of their lives each individual amongst them was a small circle of jelly, of which thousands essentially similar may be found in any tapioca pudding, he is looked on as some one whose tenets are at variance with the orthodoxy of the village, which in its lay aspect is generally measured by the creed of the village blacksmith. We know ourselves the utter impossibility of attempting to force scientific facts on the majority of mankind. Our experience teaches us that in the higher-class scientific lectures the ladies work at *crochét* while the lecturer is proceeding; the lower class is sufficiently interested to gape, and sufficiently courteous to sleep. But the middle class are the most difficult of all to deal with. After an hour's exposition of the facts, even delivered by the most eloquent lecturer, the popular mind will not rise from the hour's instruction with much result. And if a little knowledge has only been vouchsafed to the auditor, if he can have had the chance of cramming up a few questions beforehand, what an avalanche of interrogatories will he pour on the head of the devoted lecturer! The vulgar proverb says, "Fools ask more questions than wise men can answer;" we are convinced that so long as popular scientific lectures are carried on as they are too often carried on at present, little or no results will accrue to the auditors. The lecturer, we admit, may pocket his fees with a consciousness that he has not earned the gold he receives. And the better class of lecturers, we see with regret, are too glad to leave the room the instant their hour is up, to fling off all remembrance of the lecture with the gown they take off, and trudge merrily home, their consciences only dimmed by the reflection that the specimens they have left on the table may be stolen or "lost" in their absence.

We have been led to these remarks when pondering on the method by which the important work before us could be rendered useful to the popular lecturer. And we

would recommend to every student of comparative zoology who really wishes to become acquainted with his subject not to waste his time by attending the delivery of oral lectures, but to go to the practical text-book at once. With Owen's "Comparative Anatomy" in their hands, and a good anatomical museum before them, there is really not the slightest reason why many individuals, if they possess common perceptive powers and common industry, should not attain a thorough knowledge of the groundwork of comparative anatomy. Liberated from the trammels which embarrass the lecturer to "working men," Professor Owen addresses only that class which has had patience enough to become acquainted with the rudiments of the science, and has perseverance enough to desire to learn more. He has also no inducement to digress from his subject; the little devices which other teachers employ to interlard their discourse with political diatribes would be useless in the present treatise; and controversial topics, with a very few exceptions, are rigorously excluded. The exigencies of the case, however, lead Professor Owen sometimes beyond the region of dull anatomy into the atmosphere of comparative psychology. No one who was not thoroughly acquainted with the curious phenomena which the human intellect in an abnormal state occasionally presents could have penned the following thoroughly descriptive words:—

To adduce beginnings of structures in one group which reach their full development in another, as invalidating their zoological application in such higher group, is puerile; to reproduce the facts of such incipient and indicatory structures as new discoveries is ridiculous; to represent the statement of the zoological characters of a higher group as a denial of the existence of homologous facts in a lower one is disgraceful. Mr. Flower was not the first to see in the hippocampal commissure the beginning of the corpus callosum; the homologues of "cornu posterius" and of "hippocampus minor" were known in the orang before Professor Rolleston; and the homologues of the bones of the hind foot in mammals had been determined before Professor Huxley propounded them to show that the hind thumb of the ape was a great toe, and that man was not the only animal who possessed two hands and two feet. (Vol. II., p. 273.)

The embryological part of this work extends to great length. It is a great step in advance of any previous anatomical work we remember to have read. The important researches which the later German authorities have carried on respecting the formation of the embryo, aided as they have been by the most powerful microscopes, all find their place in the work before us. In the first volume we might have noticed the general developmental characters of vertebrates stated in the following terms:—

Vertebrates, like lower animals, begin in a semifluid nitrogenous substance called "plasma," primarily differentiating into albumen, fibrine, lemma, nuclei, and cells, in which latter form the individuality of the new organism first dawns as a nucleotic germ-cell, or germinal vesicle. By the evolution of albuminous granules and oil particles plasma becomes "yolk," through condensation it forms a "zona," and an outer layer of "lemma" completes the unimpregnated vertebrate egg. For further development another principle is needed—viz., the hyaline nucleus or product of the sperm-cell, called "spermatozoon." Its reception by the egg is followed by the formation of the germ mass.

When treating of the characters affecting the development of batrachia, Professor Owen pointed out the primitive changes in the following words:—

After impregnation of the batrachian ovum the dark or germinal part of the yolk is always uppermost, and its central point may be defined as the germinal pole. Here begins, usually about three hours after impregnation in the frog, the process of segmentation, by a fissure which passes in a determinate direction through the canal of the yolk, dividing it into two ellipsoid masses. About the fifth hour a second cleft appears near the point where the first commenced, crossing the first at right angles. If an ovum in this state be frozen, it splits into

four segments of a sphere. Fissures next appear, which, in relation to the two foregoing, might be termed "equatorial," but with varieties exemplified. New "meridional" furrows follow, crossed again by other "equatorial" ones, until the surface of the yolk presents the form of a blackberry. Further subdivision proceeds to such an extent as to render the surface again apparently smooth. This series of phenomena, resulting in the formation of the germ-mass, occupies about twenty-four hours, or less, according to the temperature. The fissures at their first appearance show minute lines at right angles, indicative of the molecular movements causing them. After the surface of the yolk has resumed its smoothness on the completion of the germ-mass, peripheral cells become filled with dark pigment, and constitute a general "cambium," or outer investment. (Vol. II., p. 619.)

But in the bird a different condition is shown to exist. Therein—

The germinal vesicle, on the reception of the ovum by the oviduct, is no longer visible as such. A discoid aggregate of cells constitutes an opaque white cellular spot on the part of the periphery of the yolk to which the germ-cell and the germ-yolk had passed, and this was known to the older embryologists as the "cicatricula." . . . The nucleus cicatriculæ is the germ-mass, the result of the same series of spontaneous divisions of the impregnated germ-cell as affected the entire yolk in the batrachian; to which the ovum of the bird offers the opposite condition in the preponderance of the "food-yolk" over the "germ-yolk." (Vol. II., p. 251.)

We commend the above passage to those hasty observers who have too literally accepted the saying of an eminent Transatlantic zoologist, that at a certain stage in development it is impossible to show the precise distinction between the embryo of the various classes of vertebrates. On this topic, as on many others, the study of the present work will throw much light. Indeed, the whole chapter on the development of the bird, in which the formation of the egg is described with a detail and fidelity never before surpassed, is well worthy the attention of the student.

When, however, we turn to the facts which Professor Owen lays before us respecting the Mammalia, we almost regret that in the present volume we have only the osteology dealt with. Professor Owen, however, devotes some space to the re-enunciation of the characters of his system of cerebral classification of the Mammalia. This system was propounded in 1857; it has since stood the test of more than nine years' investigation. We are not aware that amongst either the practical workers, or the philosophical generalizers, there have been many opposing arguments offered to the validity of this arrangement. The testimony which the experience of the educated public offers to the correctness of the cerebral system of classification may be taken as a fair index of its value—i.e., so far as popular opinion can be taken as of any value. Professor Owen, in this exposition, enters into more necessary particulars than he did in his famed communication to the Linnean Society in April 1857. The brevity which was necessarily adopted in that communication precluded the investigation of many minute points most interesting to the student of mammalian anatomy. And, while we examine in detail the more full conspectus of the author's opinions in the present work, our mind cannot but wander back to the time when a rational system of classification could be discussed before a rational London Society, and be submitted to sensible and moderate criticism. In the days when Bell and Gray discussed most points of mammalian osteology, reverence was implanted on the part of the neophyte towards the great teachers of the science. Since that time, we can say with the philosopher in the *Clouds*:—

Δῖνος Βασίλειε, τὸν Δι' ἐξέληλακός.

Yet we feel that we would do a great injustice to a large number of our students were we to hint that the majority had neglected to study carefully, and to profit by the application of the rules of morphological as opposed to those of zoological classification. We need

that those who study comparative osteology should be men furnished with the "dry light" of which the poet speaks; who should be able to trace out from species to species each special organ, and while they recognize the adaptive modifications which each may manifest, may also fully appreciate the subordination of characters under type-forms which are common to the whole vertebrate sub-kingdom. The precepts by which the binomial nomenclature was advocated and established are too rapidly fading from the minds of many inquirers. We use the method of notation which Linné invented, yet disdain the exactitude which he so habitually practised; we subordinate the characters of individual species under generic types, and of individual genera under those of ordinal groups, yet we have few definite ideas as to the type of each individual genus. Professor Owen has himself pointed out the difficulties which encounter the zoologist when selecting a type-form from amongst the species of our best-known genera. To take the tapirs, e.g.: Which species is the type of the genus; the American (*T. Americanus*), as being the first and best known; the Pinchaqué (*T. villosus*), as being the one which shows certain traces of embryonic structure, as evinced by the woolly integument; or the Malayan, which best retains the common ordinal (Perissodactyle) characters of the pattern of the coat? Either of these may be justifiably termed the type-form; and either might be selected as the one most convenient to illustrate as the ideal "tapir." The confusion which thus arises may be taken as a specimen of the confusion which exists throughout the whole science of zoology.

The mode by which Professor Owen follows up the osteological characters of the chief individuals in his fourteen orders of Mammalia (the *Toxodontia*, referred to by him in 1857 as an order, being apparently merged in the great mass of Perissodactyles, and their "rodent" affinities being probably more adaptive than real; *Cheiromys* in *Quadrumana*, and *Phascosomys* in *Marsupialia*, being apparently analogous cases) is especially interesting. The interest with which we regard this investigation does not lessen when we learn from Professor Owen what are his real opinions with regard to the value to be assigned to the variations in the form of the cranium in the various races or species of man. Some very beautiful little woodcuts are given us of those type-forms which Professor Owen thinks fit to select. He seems rather to distrust the value of cranial characters as applied to the minute comparison of race with race; at the same time that he gives due weight to the vast differences which are exhibited by such discordant types as the European, the Esquimaux, the Boschisman, and the Australian. Those persons who have measured a hundred skulls in their lifetime will perhaps think that Professor Owen is too cautious in his conclusions; whilst those who have measured ten will feel assured that he is far behind the age. But those who have really had some experience in the matter will feel that some degree of caution is necessary to predict the limits under which cranial characters can be said to denote particular races. The hasty generalization which leads the ignorant sciolist dogmatically to affirm that a "male" or a "female" pelvis lies before him is too often copied by the craniologist. We have indeed need for further and more complete investigation; but it must be only carried on by the hands of those whose experience is vast, and who have few theoretical prejudices. To such persons we can cordially recommend the perusal of the second volume of Owen's "Comparative Anatomy." As the weary eyes of the student or the artist turn from the constant perusal of printed type or the contemplation of brilliant and often inharmonious colour to gaze on the unbroken expanse of the calm green sea, so will the inquirer in anatomy gladly accept the unobtrusive but majestic production before us. At first sight the in-

fluences which it may present may seem inadequate to produce great results; yet its constant study will wash away prejudices which have accumulated for twenty years, and its careful examination will tend to assist in the wearing down of those little angles and peculiarities which each individual anatomist too often presents. Until each one sinks his own personal crotchets—until he recognizes that united investigation alone can further the science of Comparative Anatomy—we have little hope for the advancement of positive truth amongst our teachers of Biological Science.

The Causes and Treatment of Imperfect Digestion. By Arthur Leared, M.D. (Churchill & Sons.)—In this volume the author, who is already well-known for his investigations upon the physiology of the stomach, has given us an interesting general account of the phenomena of digestion. He begins by stating the causes of dyspepsia, then passes on to the symptoms of the different varieties of the affection, and finally deals with the subject of treatment. In all his observations we notice that Dr. Leared speaks from a practical knowledge of the branch of medicine on which he treats. There is in most works upon the stomach too much stress laid upon the value of drugs in the treatment of dyspepsia. We are glad, therefore, to perceive that while Dr. Leared gives due weight to the importance of particular medicines, he cautions his reader against supposing that any drug can cure dyspepsia. Hygienic treatment is what he suggests as likely to be attended with the most satisfactory results, and in this we heartily agree with him. His little book addresses itself to the general reader as much as to the practitioner, and is in most instances accurate, and up to the present date of physiological discovery. The appendix, upon the cause of heartburn, will be read with interest by all who have suffered from that terribly annoying affection; and the author's explanation that the disagreeable sensation is due to the action of butyric acid seems extremely probable. We would, however, remark that Dr. Leared commits a serious error when he says of butyric acid that it is "formed out of its elements in the stomach."

The Alkaline Permanganates and their Medicinal Uses. By John Mutter. (Churchill & Sons.)—Of late years, since it has been believed that imperfect oxidation is the cause of many diseases, the use of medicines favouring the oxidizing processes has been largely adopted. Some, indeed, suppose also that chemical compounds which become readily deoxidized give up ozone also, and as ozone is thought to be the very essence of vital conditions, such substances have met with favour among medical men. Now, permanganate of potash is one of the compounds to which we have referred, and it is, therefore, much in vogue among modern doctors. We cannot pretend to say that there is very little real evidence in support of the employment of oxidizing agents in the cure of disease, and hence we must refer our readers to Mr. Mutter's brochure for such information as exists upon the subject.

On the Cattle Disease. By Surgeon-Major Logie. (Churchill & Sons.)—This is a pamphlet whose exact drift it is somewhat difficult to perceive. The author recommends that the water given to cattle should be from a well off gravel, or from a running stream. The byres should be fumigated by means of burning sulphur or chlorine gas; a framework of matting or some gauzy material to be placed in the doorway; this matting to be kept saturated with a solution of chloride of lime, and to be always on that door from which the wind blows. The author's remedies are as old as they are simple, and as ineffective as they are either. They are obtained from two plants, the common *Artemisia* (wormwood) of this country and the *Saracinea purpurea*, or pitcher plant of America. In conclusion, Surgeon Logie asks: "If, then, our children are fed on impure milk, and when grown up eat the blood of diseased animals, what room is left for surprise at new forms of disease? in short, what will the human race come to?" Can any of our readers satisfy our author on these interesting points?

A New Method of Applying Remedial Agents to the Cavity of the Tympanum. By Edward Bishop, M.D. (Churchill & Sons.)—A pamphlet reprinted from the *Medical Press and Circular*. Its subject is somewhat similar to that of Dr.

21 APRIL, 1866.

Beigel's treatise. The latter volume deals with the application of atomized fluids to the lungs, while Dr. Bishop treats of these vapours in connexion with their applicability to the tympanum, or drum of the ear. His remarks deserve attention.

The Nature, Cause, and Treatment of Tuberculosis. By Horace Dobell, M.D. (Churchill & Sons.)—Since the publication of the splendid researches of Dr. Hughes Bennet, of Edinburgh, there has been a growing tendency among the members of the medical profession to attribute tubercular diseases to derangement of the digestive organs. It is now pretty generally believed that tuberculosis, whether it exhibit itself in the lungs or the more peripheral portions of the frame, is originated by a condition of mal-assimilation of the nutritive portions of food. To what is this state of innutrition due? Some say it is caused by disease of the pepsin-secreting glands of the stomach; others affirm that it arises from an inactive state of the liver; whilst a third school, in which our author holds a prominent position, attributes the disease to derangement of the pancreas or sweet-bread. If we admit, as there is every reason to suppose, that tuberculosis is the consequence of an imperfect absorption of fat, then we must confess that Dr. Dobell has all reason on his side. The pepsin of the gastric juice is merely concerned in the solution of nitrogenous food, and the bile, according to recent American investigations, cannot be shown to have any affect upon the assimilation of fat. But it is different with the pancreas. The juice of this gland emulsifies fatty matter, and converts starch into sugar, which, in its turn, may be changed into fat. It is not unreasonable, then, to imagine that any affection which checks the action of the pancreas will seriously impair digestion. Thus, *a priori*, there is much to support Dr. Dobell's views. The practical experience of the author, however, demonstrates his opinion to conviction. He has found that in cases where pellets of fatty matter were discharged from the alimentary canal the duct of the pancreas was closed up, and he has proved that in cases where the pancreas has been diseased the use of an emulsion of the pancreas of animals restores normal digestion. His little book gives a record of case-observations and experiments, and will repay the careful reader.

On Inhalation as a Means of Local Treatment of the Organs of Respiration. By Hermann Beigel, M.D. (Hardwicke.)—Dr. Beigel is a well-known German writer and physician, who has come to settle among us, and from what he know of his published works we wish him every success. In the volume before us he addresses himself to a subject which is daily becoming more popular with medical men. We allude to the subject of inhalation of pulverized vapours in the treatment of laryngeal, bronchial, and pulmonary affections. There is a great deal too much dogmatism afloat in regard to the inhalation of vapours. Physicians of a certain jog-trot class are too apt to assert that vapours or fine particles of matter which they suspend cannot be carried into the lungs during the act of inspiration. Dr. Beigel shews us not only that pulverized particles may be carried into the ultimate bronchial tubes, but that when thus introduced they relieve many painful symptoms, and in some cases bring about complete recovery. The apparatus he employs, like that of Sales-Giron, consists of a vessel filled with the fluid to be atomized; above this vessel an air-pump is placed, which compresses the air above the surface of the water. The pressure is indicated by a manometer. The fluid escapes through the fine opening of a tube with a stop-cock, and strikes against a small metal disk; here it is broken and turned into a very minute vapour, which can now be inhaled by the patient, while the condensed fluid escapes through a small tube. Dr. Beigel's book displays careful thought and extensive experience, and we heartily commend it to the notice of the profession.

On Some Varieties and Effects of Cancerous Disease of Bone. (Liston Clinical Prize Essay University College, 1860.) By William Hickman, M.B., F.R.C.S. (Hardwicke.)—The elegant pamphlet before us contains the views which Dr. Hickman has been led to entertain after the long experience which he possessed as House Surgeon and House Physician to University College Hospital. Rokitansky, long ago, had pointed out that cancer of the bone was of frequent occurrence, as a cause by which spontaneous fracture of the bone may be produced on the most trifling occasion. Cruveilhier,

Salter, and Holmer Coote, have also published analogous cases. The author described some instances which have fallen under his observation, in which a microscopic examination of the transverse and longitudinal sections of the diseased bones was effected, which led to the conclusions, amongst others, that there is a peculiar form of infiltrated cancer of bone, which may be either primary or secondary, in which the cancerous nature of the disease is only discoverable by the microscope. Probably many of the cases which have been hitherto called *fragilitas* or *mollities ossium*, have been instances of this form of disease; and many of the cases of spontaneous fracture which have been attributed to atrophy, either with or without cancer existing elsewhere in the body, have been really due to cancerous disease of the bone. Some very beautiful lithographs are given, in illustration of the author's conclusions.

SCIENTIFIC NOTES.

THE first sheet of a chart of the river Scheldt, from Rupelmonde to Lillo, has recently been issued by the Belgian Government. This is the beginning of a series of charts of the Belgian coasts, the surveys for which have been made by Lieutenant Stessels, by order of the Minister of the Interior. The next map is to show the course of the river from Lillo to Flushing, and this is to be followed by others. The soundings, instead of being marked by figures, are denoted by shading of degrees of intensity varying according to the depth of water. This is claimed as a novelty, but it is not so, as it has been long in use in the American, and also to some extent in the French charts. An Antwerp paper, the *Précurseur*, in announcing the publication of this chart, says, with pardonable pride, that "thanks to the remarkable work of M. Stessels, Belgium will no longer be under an obligation to foreign countries for a knowledge of its coasts." We may say, without fear of contradiction, that the British Government is without a rival in the matter of charts. The number issued by them is about 4,000, the plates of which are continually being altered so as to keep pace with the constant changes of the sea bottom. During the last year the enormous number of 250,000 impressions were struck off, a large proportion of which were purchased by foreign Governments.

OUR well-informed French contemporary, *Les Mondes*, makes a most ridiculous mistake respecting the late exposure of the manufacture of "real Leicestershire ketchup," in which, as will probably be recollected, the chief ingredient was putrid liver. "Will it be believed" asks M. Moigno, "that an alimentary establishment (*établissement alimentaire*) of great renown, produced daily enormous quantities of a soup which has become very popular, and which simply consists of cat's liver in a half putrified state (*des foies de chat à demi pourris*)." The mistake has, no doubt, arisen from ketchup having been written catsup, from which the transition to *cat soup* is easy.

THE first part of the second volume of the Palæontology of California is nearly ready. It will contain the first instalment of the description of the Tertiary Invertebrate Fossils, by W. M. Gabb. This part will be published without plates, but 13 plates will shortly be issued separately.—The Philadelphia Sketch Club has inaugurated a series of annual prize exhibitions of pictures, sculpture, &c., with the worthy object of developing and encouraging native art. It proposes to give ten prizes, two for the best paintings in oil, two for those in water colours, two for sculpture, two for monochrome, and two for illuminations. Its first exhibition at the Pennsylvania Academy of Arts contained 348 examples.—Professor James C. Watson, of the Michigan University, has in the press "A Treatise on the Motions of the Heavenly Bodies Revolving round the Sun, in accordance with the Law of Numerical Gravitation," with numerical examples and auxiliary tables.—The works of John Marston, of which Mr. Halliwell issued an edition in 1856, are announced as in the press at Boston, in 5 vols., crown 8vo. They will be edited, from the original editions, by F. F. Heard and W. F. Fowle.

THE recently published "Geological Survey of California," by J. D. Whitney, contains an interesting description of a deposit of borax in California. "Borax Lake," as it is called, is about 36 miles from the Pacific and 65 northwest of Suiseun Bay. Its existence was first made known in 1856 by Dr. Veatch, who detected borax in its waters. Some months after-

wards a large deposit of crystals was discovered at the bottom of the lake. These crystals, which differ in size from microscopic dimensions up to two or three inches across, form a layer of varying thickness immediately under the water. In one place the layer was found to be 18 inches deep, and in others there were several thinner strata alternating with bands of clay. The extent of the lake varies according to the dryness of the season, as does also the quantity of salts held in solution. In September, 1863, it contained 2,401 grains of solid matter to the gallon, of which about one half was common salt, one quarter carbonate of soda, and the remainder chiefly borate of soda. In 1864 the California Borax Company obtained possession of the lake, and we learn from the current number of *Silliman's Journal*, to which we are indebted for the foregoing intelligence, that during the last year the company has not only supplied the local demand of thirty to forty tons, but has shipped two hundred tons to New York. The borax is collected from the mud at the bottom of the lake, during the dry season, the yield last season averaging about two and a-half tons per day of very pure borax. This new source of the salt appears to be of some commercial importance.

IT was announced at the last meeting of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium that the author of the prize essay on the History of Medical Science in Belgium since 1835 is Dr. Marcq, of Brussels.

HOMŒOPATHY appears to exhibit a good deal of vitality in Paris, so much so indeed, that a few days ago the leading professors of and believers in homœopathy dined together to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of their high priest Hahnemann. The proceedings in honour of *l'illustre réformateur* were brought to a close by a speech from a M. Léon Simon on the subject of an international congress of homœopaths.

THE work of stowing away the new Atlantic Cable on board the Great Eastern commenced on Saturday last. The Iris, the hulk lent by the Government to the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Company for the purpose of bringing down the cable from the works at Mordan Wharf, East Greenwich, arrived alongside the Great Eastern in the middle of last week, with upwards of 200 miles of the new cable on board. According to present arrangements, the Great Eastern will make another attempt to lay the cable at the end of June or beginning of July next.

A REPORT recently published by the Natural History Section of the Institute of Christiana, contains the result of an investigation of a disease amongst the oysters, which, it is stated, renders the flesh highly poisonous. The discovery was made in the course of an inquiry into the cause of several mysterious deaths and cases of severe indisposition, which the medical men were entirely unable to account for. Thus we have had the cholera and recurrent fever amongst the human species, rinderpest amongst the cattle, our pigs have been infested with trichinae, and finally an epidemic amongst the oysters turns a wholesome and palatable article of food into a dangerous poison.

AN interesting relic has recently been acquired by the Academy of Sciences. It consists of a copy of the "Memoirs of Lagrange," in eight volumes, which belonged to D'Alembert, by whom it was given to Condorcet. It next passed into the hands of Biot, who, in 1856, presented the volumes to M. Bour, Professor at the Ecole Polytechnique, a rising mathematician, whose early death we announced a few weeks back. M. Bour, fearing lest a work which had been successively identified with such illustrious names should be lost, requested, during his last illness, that it should be placed at the disposal of the Academy of Sciences.

It would appear as if something were to be done at last towards the better preservation of the valuable records and manuscripts contained in the monastic libraries of Spain. In conformity with a report of the Minister of the Interior, the Queen has ordered a collection of them to be made, and to be called the "National Historical Archives." They are to be under the care of a Royal commissioner.

AN excellent method has been published by Dr. Heeren, of Hanover, for preparing the conducting surfaces of casts, whether of gutta-percha, wax, or gypsum, from which electrotypes are to be taken. The surface is well moistened with a nearly concentrated solution of nitrate of silver in alcohol by means of a soft brush. An aqueous solution cannot be employed, because it

does not readily moisten fine lines or narrow interstices, and easily runs together into little drops. When the entire surface has been wetted, the excess of the alcoholic solution is wiped away with a drier brush. The cast is now at once, before the silver liquid dries, exposed to the action of sulphuretted hydrogen; if the object be small, it need merely be suspended for a few minutes in a vessel filled with this gas; if its dimensions, however, be so great that it cannot be readily moved, a stream of this gas should be made to play upon it from an india-rubber tube. The surface becomes covered with a thin film of sulphide of silver, the alcohol quickly evaporates, and in a few minutes the cast is dry and ready for immersion in the electrotyping bath. The sulphide of silver is an excellent conductor of electricity, being not inferior to graphite, and is therefore admirably fitted for this purpose; an alcoholic solution of acetate of copper can also be used, but the resulting sulphide does not conduct so well as that of silver. Various kinds of fruit, and the bodies of soft and delicate animals, can be easily electrotyped by this process.

"VIENNA MEERSCHAUM," as artificially prepared meerschaum is called, is obtained, according to the patent, by grinding together a mixture of 100 parts of water-glass, 60 parts of carbonate of magnesia, and 80 parts of either pulverized meerschaum waste or of pure white alumina. The powder is sifted through silk or hair sieves, boiled for ten minutes with the requisite quantity of water, and poured into the forms which allow the excess of water to run off.

PHARAOH'S SERPENTS have been succeeded by a new scientific sensation, *Zauber Photographien*, or Magic Photographs. These are sold in two envelopes, the first contains pieces of white albumenized paper, the other slips of white blotting paper of a corresponding size. One of the former is moistened with water and a piece of paper from the other envelope, likewise wetted, is laid thereon, when a beautiful photograph is immediately developed on its albuminized surface. Photographs have of course been printed in the usual manner on the albuminized slips, and then decolorized with bromic or iodic acid or some such agent; the other pieces of paper have been soaked in hyposulphite of soda, and the application of this reducing agent to the hidden photograph brings it again to view.

Dr. PERCY's report on the ventilation, warming, and lighting of the Houses of Parliament has recently been printed. It appears that the arrangement of the apparatus is now, or rather will be when the whole of the suggested improvements shall be finished, almost as perfect as it can be. Complaints there must necessarily be, for it is impossible, in so varied an assembly as the House of Commons, to find one temperature which shall be agreeable to all. "It should ever be borne in mind that our individual sensations may be treacherous in the indication of temperature, as we are not accurate, invariable, and unimaginative instruments like thermometers; and that a temperature which may be agreeable to ourselves may not be equally so to our neighbours." The association of open doors and windows with ventilation is perfectly natural, but it should be borne in mind that a properly designed system of ventilation is intended to operate only under certain conditions, and therefore the admission of air by any other way than the proper inlets will have the effect of deranging the whole. This is the case in the House of Commons, where it is found that less air passes through when the windows are open than when they are closed. On the night on which leave was asked to bring in the Electoral Franchise Bill about 1,500,000 cubic feet per hour passed through the House. The worst parts appear to be some of the Commons' committee-rooms, to ventilate which properly would be as difficult "as it would be to endeavour to ventilate a cask of red herrings." The Commons' roof, which was exposed to great risk of fire, has been altered; and the steam boilers in various parts of the building have been placed under the care of the Manchester Association for the Prevention of Steam Boiler Explosions. Plans are being made of the various air-passages by which the Houses are warmed and ventilated. There are 15 miles of steam piping and about 1,200 stopcocks and valves connected therewith, besides innumerable air channels running in every possible direction. None of the officials, it appears, possessed a complete knowledge of the arrangements, so that occasional blundering took place. In the course of the explorations it was discovered that the Speaker's house was partly supplied with air which had passed over two urinals. Many persons will doubtless be astonished to

learn that the illumination of the Westminster clock costs 251l. 7s. per annum. The amount paid to the Chartered Gas Company for gas consumed at the Houses of Parliament during the past year was 3,505l.

A VALUABLE paper has been contributed by Mr. James Croll to the *Philosophical Magazine* for April, "On the Physical Cause of the Submergence and Emergence of the Land during the Glacial Epoch." He thoroughly disposes of the arguments of Mr. Heath on that question, and illustrates his own position by fresh reasons. The paper is illustrated by two diagrams, and concludes thus: "In the *Reader* for January 13, 1866, I advanced an objection to the submergence theory on the grounds that the lowering of the ocean-level by the evaporation of the water to form the ice-cap would exceed the submergence resulting from the displacement of the earth's centre of gravity. But, after my letter had gone to press, I found that I had overlooked some important considerations which seem to prove that the objection had no real foundation. For, during a glacial period, say on the northern hemisphere, the entire mass of ice which presently exists on the southern hemisphere would be transferred to the northern, leaving the quantity of liquid water unchanged." Professor W. Thomson, F.R.S., in a note on this paper, says: "Mr. Croll's estimate of the influence of a cap of ice on the sea-level is very remarkable in its relation to Laplace's celebrated analysis, as being founded on that law of thickness which leads to expressions involving only the first term of the series of 'Laplace's functions,' or 'spherical harmonics.' The equation of the level surface, as altered by any given transference of solid matter, is expressed by equating the altered potential function to a constant. This function, when expanded in the series of spherical harmonics, has for its first term the potential due to the whole mass supposed collected at its altered centre of gravity. Hence, a spherical surface round the altered centre of gravity is the first approximation in Laplace's method of solution for the altered level surface. Mr. Croll has with admirable tact chosen, of all the arbitrary suppositions that may be made foundations for rough estimates of the change of sea-level due to variations in the polar ice-crusts, the one which reduces to zero all terms after the first in the harmonic series, and renders that first approximation (which always expresses the essence of the result) the whole solution, undisturbed by terms irrelevant to the great physical question." The Professor goes on to show there are additional considerations in support of Mr. Croll's theory.

SCIENTIFIC CORRESPONDENCE.

SEEING DISTANCE.

Madeira, March 21.

IN *Macmillan's Magazine* for March, Mr. T. Collings Simon discusses the question, "Can we see distance?" His article is an exposition of the well-known argument stated by Berkeley at the beginning of his "Theory of Vision," and is written with especial reference to Mr. Abbott's late attempt to disprove that theory. Being quite of Mr. Simon's opinion that the attempt is unsuccessful, and admitting that he has fairly criticized some unaccountable misconceptions which make it difficult to take hold of Mr. Abbott's argument, I cannot help thinking that Mr. Simon has failed to take hold of it, and has, so to speak, put the question a stage back.

Two points at different distances in the same direction are represented on the retina by one point; therefore neither the line from the eye to either of them, nor the line from one to the other is represented at all. To this venerable argument, which he enforces with great abundance of illustration, Mr. Simon understands Mr. Abbott to object that, if not represented in one eye, either of these lines is represented in the other; and replies, yes, but not as distance, that is, not as a line from the eye that sees it. To save space, I shall not discuss the reasoning, but admit at once, as Mr. Abbott would probably do, that, if to see distance is to have it projected in a certain length on the retina from which it is measured, we do not see distance. But this is not what Mr. Abbott means by seeing distance, and the objection mentioned above, though he has given every excuse to a controversialist who should rest his case on its refutation, still does not really raise a fair idea of his reasoning.

Mr. Abbott's great fact is that the pictures on

the two retinas so completely represent the object that produced them, that it could be completely reconstructed from them, in form, size, and position. This may seem a truism; but, up to the time of Mr. Bailey's answer to Mr. Mill's review of him in the *Westminster*, no notice seems to have been taken of it in connexion with this question: and it is certainly a material fact; for if sight means knowledge immediately arising from action on the retina or retinas, the question whether we see distance is independent of Mr. Simon's arguments, and depends on the question whether the knowledge given us by the two pictures is given us "immediately." Mr. Abbott's language is confused: still on the whole this is the sense in which he uses the word *sight*, and this is the question which he really discusses.

To follow his example would be to investigate the whole theory of vision. This is not the place for that; but Mr. Simon's article seems to prove that there is room for an attempt to characterize the position in which the question has reached under the hands of its latest investigators. Any view of the matter implies one of two views of the fundamental problem of metaphysics.

First, it may be believed, or at least maintained, that material objects exist independently of ourselves, and that our senses merely give us information of them. This seems to be Mr. Abbott's opinion; and to it, as the opinion implied in ordinary language, Berkeley conformed in his original essay, and Mr. Mill in his review of Mr. Bailey. This being the case, Mr. Abbott maintains, first, that, even respecting distance, the information given is independent of experience, and, secondly, that it is given by sight independently of touch or the sense of muscular exertion, chiefly on the ground of an elaborate argument that these senses do not give us the means of telling distance at all. I believe his reasoning to be utterly inconclusive: but we are still without an argument on the other side, which, fully taking into consideration the fact of the stereoscope, should show that sight by itself is inferior to touch or the sense of muscular exertion as a means of disentangling the geometrical puzzle of an external world.

Secondly, it may be believed, or at least maintained, that nothing exists but states of consciousness; and that our knowledge of material objects only means that by certain exertions of force we can modify certain sensations in a certain manner. This is the doctrine indicated in Mr. Mill's "Logic," and he has applied it to the present question in his examination of Sir William Hamilton's "Philosophy," as Mr. Bain had done in his work on the Senses and the Intellect. Now, if exertions of our own are a necessary element in our idea of a material object, material objects could never have been known by means of the retinas only, without the conscious co-operation of muscles. But though Mr. Bain has shown how this knowledge may have been acquired by means of the muscles of locomotion, it has not been proved that it may not also have been acquired by means of the muscles of the eye. Certain sensations are modified in a certain manner by certain exertions of force through either set of muscles. The exertion required to produce a given modification of feeling might be made equally in either case the basis of measurement. It remains to be shown which set of organs makes the work of discrimination easiest. C. J. M.

PROCEEDINGS OF FOREIGN ACADEMIES.

PARIS.

THE FRENCH ACADEMY.—April 9.—M. P. Duchartre read some "Observations on the Growth of some Plants during the Day and during the Night." The result of these observations was, that in the case of six different plants, belonging among the Dicotyledons, to the family of the Ampelidæ, the Malvacæ, the Rosacæ, and the Cannabinæ, and among the Monocotyledons to the family of the Iridacæ, the increase in length of the shoot during the day, which was observed during the month of August and the commencement of September, has been, with extremely few exceptions, more considerable from six o'clock in the evening to six o'clock in the morning—that is to say, during the night—than in the corresponding hours during the day. The difference between the nocturnal and diurnal increase has been frequently twice as much, sometimes three times as much, and sometimes even still more considerable. M. Duchartre thought this phenomenon might depend partly on the season of the year, and that it was impos-

THE READER.

21 APRIL, 1866.

sible to derive any extensive generalization from these few facts; possibly they might form a basis for others.—M. A. Baudrimont read "Experiments and Observations on Oxygen, and the Bioxyde of Hydrogen." He confirmed the opinions of M. Schoenbein on the difference between *ozone* and *antozone*. A note by M. S. Rosanoff "On the Red Pigment of the Floridées and its Physiological Import" was read by M. Decaisne.—M. Ch. Dufour read a paper "On the Secular Acceleration of the Motion of the Moon." The author called in question the fact of the invariability of the length of the day. This would involve a difference in the second, and thus many problems of the most important character are involved in the main fact of the secular Acceleration of the moon's motion.

REPORTS OF LEARNED SOCIETIES.

ROYAL.—April 12.—The papers read were:—"On a Uniform Rotation." By C. W. Siemens, F.R.S.

"On a Fluorescent Substance resembling Quinine in Animals, and on the Rate of Passage of Quinine into the Vascular and Non-Vascular Textures of the Body." By H. Bence Jones, M.D., F.R.S., and A. Dupré, Ph.D., F.C.S.

GEOLOGICAL.—April 11.—Mr. Warington W. Smyth, President, in the chair.

The following communications were read:—

1. "On the Brown Cannel or Petroleum Coal-seams at Colley Creek, New South Wales." By Mr. William Keene. In this paper the author described the geological position of the Brown Cannel or Petroleum-Coal of Colley Creek, Liverpool Plains. From an examination of the rocks, he stated that he had been able to determine that this Cannel is below the coal-seams worked in the Newcastle coal-field. It appeared to form the very base of the coal-measures, and to be in such close contact with the porphyries, that these latter seemed mixed up with the lower portion of the Cannel coal. There are two parallel seams of workable thickness, which are tilted at a high angle, and run north and south. In appearance the specimens are identical with the brown Cannels from Hartley, and are but little different from the Boghead coal of Scotland. At Scone, near the Kingdon Ponds, a section was noticed in which the marine fossiliferous bed is proved to overlie the coal seams, affording—as the author remarks—conclusive testimony as to the high antiquity of the coal-beds.

2. "On the Occurrence and Geological Position of Oil-bearing Deposits in New South Wales." By the Rev. W. B. Clarke. The author first described the oil-producing Schists and Cannels of New South Wales as they exist at Colley Creek, at the head of the Cordeaux river (Illawarra shales), at various places in the Wollondilly and Nattai Valleys, at Reedy Creek (Hartley Cannel), Stoney Creek, and elsewhere; as well as a substance resembling "Bog-butter," occurring at Bournda, and probably of very recent date. Respecting the Colley Creek Cannel described in the previous paper, Mr. Clarke observed that he saw no porphyry near it, but that a seam or mass of the Cannel, which here contains numerous scarcely rounded grains of quartz, was passed through in the midst of a series of layers of black, partly unctuous clay, which also contained many similar quartz grains; these grains gave to the clay a porphyritic aspect, so that by sight alone one might be led to consider them a decomposed porphyry. The chief conclusions at which the author arrived were, (1) that, with the exception of the Stoney Creek Cannel, all the oil-producing deposits occur in the Upper Coal-measures, and that the Cannel of Stoney Creek, on the River Hunter, occurs in the Lower Coal-measures, which are above the Lower Marine beds with Trilobites, below which again are numerous fossiliferous beds before the porphyry is reached; and (2) that the Cannel belongs to beds in which *Glossopteria* occurs, and therefore may be a slight additional evidence to their antiquity, as it is an analogue of the "Bog Head" Cannel of Scotland.

3. "Remarks on the Copper Mines of the State of Michigan." By Mr. H. Bauerman. The author described briefly the different conditions under which native copper is found in the trappean belt of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, on Lake Superior. The district in question is a narrow strip of ground about 140 miles long, and from two to six miles in breadth, made up of alternations of compact and vesicular traps, with subordinate beds of columnar and crystal-

line greenstones, conformably interbedded with sandstones and conglomerates. Three different classes of deposits are known—namely, transverse or fissure lodes in the northern district, cupriferous amygdaloids and conglomerates following the strike in the central or portage district, and irregular concretionary lodes also parallel to the bedding, in the southern or antonagon district. In the fissure-veins copper occurs either spotted through the vein-stuff, or concentrated in comparatively smooth plates, or lenticular masses, of all sizes up to 500 tons. In the antonagon lodes the masses are also large, but of much more irregular forms. In the portage district, on the other hand, only small masses are found, the great production of the mines of this region being derived from the finely divided spots and grains interspersed through the amygdaloids and conglomerates. The author proceeded to notice the various hypotheses that may be framed for elucidating the occurrence of native copper in the Lake Superior traps. Two principal sources were indicated, the first on the supposition that protoxide of copper may have originally formed part of the felspathic component of the trap, or that the same rock may have contained sulphuretted compounds of copper mechanically intermixed; while according to the second view the overlying sandstones may have contained small quantities of copper-bearing minerals in a similar manner to the Kupferschiefer and other Permian and Triassic rocks in Europe. Supposing the trappean rocks to have been percolated by solutions carrying the products of the alteration of such minerals, it was suggested that the reduction to the metallic state was mainly produced by the action of substances containing protoxides of iron, which by higher oxidation have given rise to the dark-red colour and the earthy ochreous substances found in the vein-matter. The causes producing the metalliferous deposits in the trap were stated to have evidently acted throughout the whole system, and the absence of copper from the compact beds is probably rather due to the absence of cavities fit for the reception of such masses, than to any difference in chemical composition.

The following specimens were exhibited:—

Copper-ores from the State of Michigan; exhibited by Mr. H. Bauerman.

A piece of an iron water-pipe, containing a calcareous incrustation deposited from the water supplied to the city of Bath; presented by Mr. John Lawson.

ZOOLOGICAL.—April 10.—Mr. John Gould, V.P., F.R.S., in the chair.

The Secretary called the attention of the meeting to some recent additions to the Society's Menagerie, amongst which were particularly mentioned two species of Australian birds (*Psephotus pulcherrimus* and *Otis australis*) never before exhibited in the Society's gardens.

Mr. J. Gould exhibited specimens of the trachea of an Insectorial bird, from Cape York, North Australia (*Manucodia gouldi*, G. R. Gray), which was of very remarkable form and structure.

Mr. Tegetmeier exhibited and made some remarks upon a supposed original drawing of the Dodo (*Didus ineptus*), in which the colour of that extinct bird was represented as being nearly white.

Dr. Gray gave a notice of an Ape (*Macacus inornatus*) and a Bush-buck (*Cephalophus breviceps*) in the gardens of the Society, which he considered to belong to undescribed species.

CHEMICAL.—Anniversary.—March 29.—Dr. W. A. Miller, President, in the chair.

The report of the Council was read, which described the roll of the society as consisting of 476 fellows, and 37 foreign members. The losses by decease were four—viz., Professor Brande, Dr. Daughish, Mr. George Smith, and Professor Piria, of Turin. Twenty-six papers were read and two lectures delivered during the session.

The following officers were elected:—

President: Dr. W. A. Miller; Vice-Presidents: F. A. Abel, Sir B. C. Brodie, Walter Crum, C. G. B. Daubeny, W. De la Rue, Thomas Graham, A. W. Hofmann, Lyon Playfair, John Stenhouse, A. W. Williamson, and Colonel P. Yorke; Secretaries: W. Odling and A. V. Harcourt; Foreign Secretary: E. Frankland; Treasurer: T. Redwood; other Members of Council: F. C. Calvert, D. Campbell, W. Crookes, H. Debus, F. Field, G. C. Foster, E. Hadow, H. Letheby, Hugo Müller, H. M. Noad, W. J. Russell, and Maxwell Simpson.

April 5.—Dr. A. W. Hofmann in the chair.

Messrs. A. E. Davies and T. B. Redwood were

admitted fellows; and Messrs. R. McCalmont, W. Carr Stevens, and T. Vosper were elected.

Mr. J. Spiller read a paper "On the Estimation of Phosphorus in Iron and Steel."

Professor Wanklyn detailed the results of experiments made conjointly by Mr. E. T. Chapman and himself, "On Magnesium."

Mr. E. T. Chapman offered a few observations on a new "Mode of Preparing Mercury-Ethyl."

Mr. W. A. Tilden read a paper entitled, "Further Contributions to the History of the Periodides of the Organic Bases."

Mr. McLeod then exhibited a mode of forming acetylide of copper by a modification of the process of M. Berthelot.

Dr. A. W. Hofmann then offered some interesting observations "On the Synthesis of Guanidine," which the author has succeeded in forming by the action of ammonia upon chloropiric.

ANTHROPOLOGICAL.—April 17.—Dr. Hunt, President, in the chair.

The following new members were elected: W. C. Bonnerjee, F.G.S.; James Champley, M.D.; J. S. Da Costa; Hon. Samuel Davenport; H. Victor Martin, F.R.C.S.; John Moore; Robert Peel; John Daniel Poole, M.D.; John Towers; Thomas Alexander Wise, M.D.; M. Edouard Villin.

Dr. Edouard Dupont, of Dinant, was elected a corresponding member.

The following papers were read:—

"Contributions to an Introduction of the Anthropology of the New World," by Mr. W. Bollaert, Hon. Sec. The author, in embodying his experiences of the Red Man, noticed the erroneous statement which had been made, that the physical configuration of American natives was the same all over the continent. This was not quite the case, even as regards colour; while as to form, feature, physical and mental development, there are marked differences and peculiarities, resulting from causes investigated in detail by Mr. Bollaert. He gave minute descriptions of the various theories which had been propounded to account for the population of America, especially of the known facts regarding the colonization of the northern parts by the Icelanders in the tenth century. He condemned the theory which Rivero and Tschudi had advocated, that such originators of early American theocracies as Quetzalcoatl of Mexico, Bochica of Bogotá, and Manco Capac of Peru, were Buddhist priests. Mr. Bollaert's own researches on this subject were not confirmatory of this hypothesis. The native traditions of the aborigines were not confirmatory of this theory of Monogeny. The author gave a minute description of the materials he had been able to collect concerning the Red man, before and after the discovery of America by Columbus, adopting as examples the inhabitants of the Russian possessions in America, British North America, Newfoundland, the United States, West Indies, Texas, Mexico, Central America, New Granada, Quito, Brazil, Chile, the Pampas, and Peru. In his general retrospect of the subject, he said that, as we find about the same general geological formations in the New World and in the Old, it is natural to conclude that the continent of America has an equally ancient date, and has gone through analogous changes. The Old World has its greatest length from east to west; the New, north and south; the great mountain ranges take opposite directions, and the fossil remains have great peculiarities. The native population of America at the period of its discovery was estimated as over 100,000,000; at present there may be from 10 to 11,000,000. They are said to have some 400 languages, and over 2,000 dialects. He considered the time required for the evolution of each of these to have been vast. He gave a brief conspectus of the distribution of the chief races of man, pointing out in what way they differed from the Red men of the New World. He commented on the evidence which had been afforded of ancient human remains at Guadalupe, in the West Indies (probably recent), the Florida coral reef, Natchez on the Mississippi, and the Brazilian bone-caves. Pottery had been found in Ecuador, under circumstances which showed that it had been submerged for an unknown time under the sea, and again upheaved. He pointed out some important differences between the physiological characters of the White and Red man, and concluded by affirming that his inquiries into the subject of species and varieties led him to abandon the unity or monogenetic view, for the plurality or polygenetic theory of separate creations.

"Notes on an Hermaphrodite," by Captain R. F. Burton. The author described a case

THE READER.

21 APRIL, 1866.

observed by him in the Azores, in which essentially female characters were presented.

AERONAUTICAL.—April 17.—James Glaisher, Esq., F.R.S., in the chair.

The following new members were announced: Messrs. Robert Holland, Stanmore, Middlesex; Charles Carttar, Coroner for Kent; William Frederick Harrison, F.M.S., Bartrop, Weybridge; Thomas Dick Saunders, 60th Rifles; A. J. Melhuish, York Place, Portman Square.

Messrs. Hatton Turner (author of "Astra Castra") and Henry Wright were elected members of the Council.

Mr. F. W. Brearey, the Hon. Sec., read a paper contributed by Mr. William Fairbairn, LL.D., advocating perseverance in meteorological experiments, with a view of increasing our knowledge "as to the law of storms and of electric and magnetic phenomena, which enter so largely into the movements of elastic fluids when united to vapour and heat in the shape of clouds."

Mr. Butler contributed some interesting facts as to the progress of the science in France, gathered in his visit to Paris since the last meeting.

Some discussion took place upon the feasibility of an exhibition for a short time in London of the various models which illustrate the mode of ascent into the atmosphere without the aid of balloons, and Mr. Butler undertook to communicate the views of the Council to the French societies, so that the inventions of both countries might be collected in one exhibition.

It was arranged that the first experiments under the auspices of the society should take place next month, conducted by Mr. Glaisher and Mr. Westcar, of the Royal Horse Guards, when, in addition to observations of a meteorological nature, some experiments specially adapted to the confirmation of a theory as to the flight of birds by Mr. Wenham, C.E., should be attempted from the car of the balloon.

The secretary announced the following donations: Colonel Morrieson 5*l.* 5*s.*, Henry Redd St. Martia 1*l.* 1*s.*, and Mr. Potter 1*l.* 1*s.*

ANTIQUARIES.—April 12.—The Earl Stanhope, President, in the chair.

Mr. Spencer Perceval exhibited a pack of Protestant playing-cards, mostly satirical representations of events in the Revolution of 1688.

Mr. Thomas Parker exhibited an ancient gold ring washed away from the churchyard at Reclver, with a motto which the committee conjecturally read, "I wish to thee all joy may be." Another gold ring was exhibited by Mr. E. Dalton, through Mr. John Bruce.

Mr. Thomas Layton exhibited a large and important collection of antiquities and skulls found by him during the last six or seven years in the bed of the Thames, in the neighbourhood of Kew Bridge, where are some remains of ancient piles. —The Director remarked on the numerous bronze swords, daggers, and spear-heads in the collection, and pronounced them to be British, not Roman. It contained also some remarkable specimens of British pottery, several Anglo-Saxon weapons, a Roman fibula, and an iron sword, which was similar to those found in the Swiss Pfahlbauten. This led the Director to suggest whether these remains were not evidence of the existence of Pfahlbauten in the Thames. —Mr. Milne, the geologist, who was present, said he was rather of opinion that the piles found were the remains of an old jetty. —Mr. Carter Blake, at the invitation of the President, described the four skulls exhibited, part of a collection of eleven. The first was of the Celtic type, and belonged to the Romano-British period; the second of the Ancient British long-barrow type, so described by Dr. Thurnam; the third of the river-bed type; and the fourth was remarkable for severe sword-cuts across it. They were accompanied by a horn of *bos primigenius*. —In reply to Mr. Blake Mr. Layton stated that no remains of *longifrons* had been discovered. The exhibition was illustrated by a map of the district, drawn by Captain Tupper.

BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL.—April 11.—Mr. George R. Wright in the chair.

After the exhibition of an interesting series of MSS. relating to the family of Ford, also some to Longchamp and de Verdun, an interesting account of the borough of Clickminin in Orkney, the joint production of Sir Henry Dryden, Bart., and Mr. I. T. Irvine, was then read. It was fully illustrated with complete drawings of this very good specimen of a "Picts' House." Dr. James Copland, M.D., added some particulars from his own knowledge of

this building, and of two other "Picts' Houses" in the Orkneys. Their resemblance to the Nouraghis of Sardinia was also noticed.

Mr. H. H. Burnell then read a paper by the Rev. J. Blunt, with additions by himself, on the Old Church of Chelsea. A large part of Mr. Blunt's paper was reserved for the next meeting. Mr. Blunt suggested that the ancient dedication of the church was to All Saints, though it has long been attributed to St. Luke. The chancel, with the chauntries north and south of it, are the only portions of ancient work left. The north chauntry, called the Manor Chauntry, once contained the monuments of the Brays, now in very imperfect condition, having been destroyed or removed to make space for those of the Gervoise family. There remains, however, an ancient brass in the floor. Of the south or More Chauntry he stated that the monument of Sir Thomas More was removed from it to the chancel; and the chauntry had been occupied by the monuments of the Georges family, now also removed, displaced, and destroyed. Mr. Blunt showed that, notwithstanding the current contrary opinion, founded on Aubrey's assertion, the More monument is the original one for which Sir Thomas More himself dictated the epitaph. Mr. Burnell, the architect of the improvements effected subsequently to 1857, spoke positively as to the non-existence of a crypt which conjecture had placed under the More Chauntry. The foundation of the west end of the church before it was enlarged in 1666 he found west of Lord Dacre's tomb. On the north side of the chancel an aumbrey, and on the south a piscina was found, coeval with the chancel (early fourteenth century). The arch between the More Chauntry and the chancel is a specimen of Italian workmanship—dated 1528—a date confirmed by the objects represented in the carved ornaments, those objects being connected with the Roman Catholic ritual. It is a remarkably early instance of the use of Italian architecture in this country. In a window of this chapel, then partly bricked up, was found in the brickwork in 1858 remains of the stained glass which once filled it. The body of Sir Thomas More was, according to Aubrey, interred in this chapel, and his head, after an exposure of fourteen days, testifying to the passers-by on London Bridge the remorseless cruelty of Henry VIII. and his barbarous insensibility, was consigned to a vault in St. Dunstan's Church, Canterbury. It was seen and drawn in that vault in 1715, and the drawing was now effectively reproduced by Mr. Burnell's pencil, with other illustrations, which gave a high interest to his paper.

STATISTICAL.—April 17th. Lord Houghton, President, in the chair.

Mr. William Cotton and Mr. A. Samuda, M.P., were elected Fellows of the Society.

Mr. W. S. Jevons, M.A., read a paper "On the Frequent Autumnal Pressure in the Money Market, and the Action of the Bank of England." He began by describing the remarkable drain of gold and notes from the Bank last autumn, which caused the directors to raise the rate of interest three per cent. between September 28th and October 7th. The pressure and loss thus inflicted upon trade was unprecedented and quite unexpected in a sound and prosperous state of trade. He proceeded to show, however, that this drain, though more severe than usual, was perfectly normal in character. Average tables of the Bank accounts and the country circulation show that the first few weeks of October are altogether peculiar as regards the Money Market. There is then a concurrence of causes—the payment of dividends, the quarterly payments of rents, &c., the monthly settlement, the dispersion of money for harvest purposes—which reduce the Bank reserve and bullion to the lowest point of the year, and raise the circulation to the highest point. The general growth of our monetary transactions, without a corresponding increase of our reserve of ready capital and currency, undoubtedly tends to render these periodical pressures more marked. It is well known that many men of great eminence in the banking and statistical world consider that these sudden oscillations might be mitigated by a repeal of the Bank Act. Mr. Jevons stated his belief, however, that if these normal fluctuations were more thoroughly understood, the Bank might both provide for them beforehand, and yield to them more freely when they came, the autumnal drain being a purely temporary and internal one for currency purposes. All legitimate accommodation would thus be afforded to trade, without infringing the sound principle of the Act of 1844.

LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL, MANCHESTER.—April 3.—R. Angus Smith, F.R.S., President, in the chair.

Mr. Binney, F.R.S., said that he had observed the humming-bird hawk-moth (*Macroglossa Stellatarum*) during the past summer in far greater abundance than he ever remembered having seen it before. In the month of August, he saw upwards of a hundred of them in a garden near Grimsby, were they appeared to prefer the common lavender flower for food to any other in the place. Again in the first week of October, he observed upwards of twenty in a garden at Douglas, in the Isle of Man.

A paper was read "On a Logical Abacus," by W. S. Jevons, M.A. This was an attempt to reduce the processes of logical inference to a mechanical form. The purpose of the contrivance was to show the simple truth, and the perfect generality of a new system of pure qualitative logic closely analogous to, and suggested by, the mathematical system of logic of the late Professor Boole, but strongly distinguished from the latter by the rejection of all considerations of quantity.

This logical abacus leads naturally to the construction of a simple machine which shall be capable of giving with absolute certainty all possible logical conclusions from any sets of propositions or premises read off upon the keys of the instrument. The possibility of such a contrivance is practically ascertained; when completed it will furnish a more signal proof of the truth of the system of logic embodied in it. Mr. Jevons stated his opinion distinctly that the abacus and similar contrivances possess a theoretical rather than a practical importance. Like the analogous calculating machine of Babbage or Scheutz, a logical machine would hardly find practical employment for the present at least. Its value consisted in showing the true nature of logic as a system of analysis of the possible combinations of things, in short, as the highest and simplest form of the doctrine of combinations. Not only would the deductive, and especially the inductive processes of logic be thus presented in a new and clearer light, but the relation of logic, the qualitative doctrine of combinations, would be defined, and the abstract sciences thus brought into harmony and due subordination.

Microscopical and Natural History Sections.—March 26.—Mr. A. G. Latham in the chair.

The following objects were exhibited:—Eight mounted specimens of hair of Australian animals for the Cabinet; one of them, a species of *Phascogale*, very remarkable.—Mr. Latham.

A large collection of rare beetles from Ceylon, recently presented to the Natural History Society by Mr. Braybrooke.—Mr. Latham.

Many specimens of remarkable foraminifera from Dogs Bay.—Mr. Linton.

A sample of the Guano lately imported from Malden Island in the Pacific, for distribution among the members.—Mr. Latham.

Dr. Alcock showed mounted specimens of Embryonic shells of Mollusca, including fifty species collected by him from Dogs Bay sand, and named by Mr. J. Gwyn Jeffreys.

Physical and Mathematical Section.—March 29.—Mr. Robert Worthington in the chair.

Mr. Baxendell, F.R.A.S., communicated tables of the "Results of Rain-Gauge and Anemometer Observations made during the Year 1865, at St. Martin's Parsonage, Castleton Moor, by the Rev. J. Chadwick Bates."

Mr. W. L. Dickinson read a paper containing the results of calculations relative to the eclipse of the sun, and to two occultations of the star Aldebaran by the moon, visible here this year. The calculations have been made for the Observatory of Robert Worthington, Esq., Crumpsall, near Manchester, Lat. 53° 30' 50" N., Long. 0° 8' 56" W. The elements used in the computations have been obtained from the Nautical Almanac.

MEETINGS FOR NEXT WEEK.

MONDAY.

ANTIQUARIES, 2.—Anniversary.

GEOGRAPHICAL, 8.30.—Sir R. I. Murchison, Bart., in the chair. "Notes on Peking," Mr. W. Lockhart; "Travels in the Peninsula," Rev. F. W. Holland.

TUESDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 3.—"On Science and Superstition," Rev. C. Kingsley.

ENGINEERS, 8.—"On the Performance, Wear, and Cost of Maintenance of Rolling Stock," Mr. T. A. Rochussen; "On the Results of a Series of Observations on the Flow of Water off the Ground, in the Woodburne District, Ireland," Mr. Robert Manning.

ETHNOLOGICAL, 8.—"On the British Superstitions relating to the Hare, the Goose, and the Fowl," Mr. John Thrupp; "On the Intercourse of the Romans with Ireland," Mr. Thomas Wright.

ZOOLOGICAL, 8.30.—"Note on the *Geobates brevicauda* of Swain-

21 APRIL, 1866.

son," Mr. Solater; "Revision of the Genus *Hypna*," Mr. A. G. Butler; with other papers.
MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL, 8.30.

WEDNESDAY.

LONDON INSTITUTION, 12.—Anniversary.
ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE, 4.
SOCIETY OF ARTS, 8.—"On the Perils of Mining, and their Possible Cure," Mr. Jabez Hogg.
GEOLOGICAL, 8.—"On a New Species of *Acanthodes* from the Coal-shales of Longton," Sir Philip de M. G. Egerton; "On the Gravels and Drift of the Fenland," Mr. Harry Seeley; "Remarks upon the Interval of Time between the Formation of the Upper and Lower Valley-gravels," Mr. Alfred Tylor.
ARCHITECTURAL MUSEUM, 8.—"Existing Obstacles to the Progress of Gothic Architecture in England," Mr. F. S. Powell.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 8.30.

THURSDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 3.—"On Science and Superstition," Rev. C. Kingsley.
ROYAL SOCIETY CLUB, 6.
ROYAL, 8.30.

FRIDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 8.—"On Westminster Abbey," The Very Rev. the Dean of Westminster.
QUEENSTOWN MICROSCOPICAL CLUB, 8.
SOCIETY OF ARTS, 8.—Cantor Lecture, Dr. Craig Calvert.

SATURDAY.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, 3.—"On National Portraits," Mr. G. Scharf.
ROYAL BOTANIC, 3.45.

ART NOTES.

AT Messrs. Foster's Gallery are now on view, previous to sale by public auction on Wednesday next, Mr. J. T. Barker's (engraved) pictures of "The Allied Generals and their Officers before Sebastopol," "Sir Fenwick Williams and his Officers taking Leave of the Citizens of Kars," and "The Intellect and Valour of Britain." At the sale the purchaser of each will be entitled to the engraved plate, the remaining stock of the prints, and the copyright.

THE Institute of Painters in Water Colours will open their annual exhibition, at their Gallery in Pall Mall, on Monday next.

THE annual meeting of the members of the Art Union of London, to receive the report of the Council and distribute the amount subscribed for the purchase of works of art, will be held at the Adelphi Theatre, on Tuesday next.

MUSIC.

RECENT ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS.

WE have four regular organizations for giving orchestral music on a large scale—the Philharmonic, the Musical Society, the New Philharmonic Concerts, and the Crystal Palace Concerts. All these are now in full activity—so busy, in fact, that to give a "compte rendu" of each *séance* would be impossible. But a few incidents of their several performances may be noticed. The Philharmonic, indeed, gives us nothing to chronicle, except the simple fact of its having had a third concert on Monday evening, with a programme of the good orthodox type (Beethoven in C minor, the "Hebrides" overture, &c.) and a performance of the Society's accustomed degree of merit—a very high degree, as all will admit, however far it may fall short of the exceptional splendour which entitles to the rank of "first class" in the musical tripos. Strong in its ancient prestige, and sure of its *clientèle*, the Philharmonic must always continue to flourish so long as it carries out its main purpose of giving good performances of the best music to a select body of subscribers; but it is inevitable that, in course of time, a society cast as it is in the mould of a former generation, should by degrees assume the position of a private corporation.

The Musical Society of London gave its second concert for the season last week. We wish it were possible to say that either this concert, or the general aspect of the Society, gave proof that it was working out the high ambitions with which it began its career. But it is now no use to pretend that the Society is anything more than an arrangement for giving annually four or five concerts. How this contributes to the "advancement of the musical art" more than any other five fairly good concerts given in London during the year, we fail to see. We have not the least means of knowing who, if any one, is to blame for the almost complete abandonment of the special objects of the Society; the constitution being so entirely oligarchical, no one outside of the Council has the means of forming an opinion on the

causes of the discomfiture. We can do little more than lament the result. But one thing as to its administration may fairly be said. If the Society is to be a Concert Society, pure and simple, the concerts ought to be first-rate. A large body of subscribers paying for the performance a price not far short of the highest tariff* has a right to expect that everything will be done in the best possible manner. How far this expectation is satisfied let any one say who heard the late performance of Mr. Sullivan's new Symphony. This must have been pain and grief to the conductor, and still more trying to the composer. It was slack, spiritless, confused, and halting to a degree which we should have conceived to be nearly impossible with such a splendid band. Such a result can have been due to no other cause than insufficient rehearsal. In a symphony of Beethoven, or an overture of Weber—witness the "Freyschutz" of the same evening—the playing of the band is surpassingly magnificent; but in Mr. Sullivan's new work the players were evidently spelling their parts. It was in fact an "orchestral trial." The rule of the society is, we believe, to have one rehearsal for each concert. Whatever preparation there had been on this occasion, the result showed it was wholly insufficient. This, surely, is not the way to "promote the advancement of music." It is a good thing to give a chance to the works of young composers who give clear tokens of genius; but is it fair to treat their work in this fashion? Not that the fault is in the band. How can any players, even the best in the world, play with finish, spirit, and freedom, while they are spelling out unfamiliar phrases from manuscript parts? In fact, the case of the band is rather that of Dr. Johnson's dancing dogs, the wonder is, not that under such disadvantages they should not do better, but that they should do so well. It is satisfactory to be able to say that in spite of this serious drawback, the Symphony pleased. Its slow movement and the finale especially made a strong impression on the audience. This second hearing seemed to confirm the impression recorded in these columns on its first production at the Crystal Palace, making both its merits and its defects more evident. A discursiveness of form, and an occasional thinness of structure, a tendency towards the "obligato" fashion of treating melody, and an excessive fondness for the "wind," as compared with the "stringed" band, are the dangers or faults which Mr. Sullivan has to be on his guard against. But these are just the weaknesses which study and experience may be expected to conquer. The genuine musical fancy, the instinct for melody, and the delicate feeling for "tone-colour" exhibited in this Symphony are very precious qualities. Mr. Sullivan's music is already very lovely; if he only gathers strength as he goes on, he may make symphonies worthy of being counted among the treasures of the art.

The music at the Crystal Palace on the last few Saturdays has been as good and as interesting as the winter music always is. A rumour has gone about—we should be glad to hope it might be true—that this delightful series may be continued into the summer, and take the place of the great bonnet-shows which have been held in the central transept in past summers, under the absurd name of concerts. Mr. Manns has been continuing his vigorous advocacy of Schumann, accompanying the last performance of the "Manfred" overture with a fervid appeal on its behalf in the programme, notwithstanding which we are obliged to confess that the deathly gloom of that tremendous composition seems to us to forbid its being called beautiful. But last Saturday's concert was the crown of the present series, the symphony being Beethoven's Ninth (the

* The subscription for a reserved seat is practically 7s. 6d. an evening. The "Philharmonic" price, which has been always regarded as exceptionally high, is only 10s.

Choral). The performance seemed to us the very best that we had ever listened to. The chorus acquitted itself well, and the soloists, led by Madame Parepa, sang satisfactorily (which is not faint praise, considering the nature of the music); but the band—we are almost afraid to say how the band played. We had rather only say, thanks, Mr. Manns, and helpers all, for giving us such music in such a fashion!

The last of our Orchestral Associations to begin its work this season has been that which Dr. Wyld directs, under the name of the New Philharmonic Concerts. The programme of the first concert of this series (which was on Wednesday last) was varied and interesting. It contained two symphonies—Schumann's in E flat (which was first introduced to English ears, if we remember right, by Signor Ardit last winter), and the "Italian" of Mendelssohn. There was also one of Weber's Clarinet Concertos, one new apparently to England, which Mr. Lazarus played to such perfection, that we could not help thinking it is a pity this accomplished artist is not oftener set to play Mozart's far more beautiful work of the same form. Also there was Meyerbeer's overture to "Struensee," a rarely heard but wonderful piece—wonderful, if only as a marvel of orchestration, for the constant iteration in different forms of the one phrase upon which it is founded. The choice of such materials for an evening's music showed that Dr. Wyld is determined not to fall behind any competitors in enterprise and research. These admirable concerts are doubly welcome, from the still great scarcity of good orchestral music. Seventeen concerts per annum are all that are provided by the three London societies. Of these the five given by Dr. Wyld are in a sense the most useful, being the most widely open to the general public. But with a total so absurdly small, neither Dr. Wyld, nor the "Philharmonic," nor the Musical Society, need consider themselves rivals. So much does the appetite for what is good grow by what it feeds on, that we doubt if an English "Pasdeloup," at a shilling tariff, would be otherwise than a help to the existing institutions.

MUSICAL NOTES.

HERR MOLIQUE'S departure from England will be made, we see, the occasion of a "farewell concert," to take place at St. James's Hall, on Monday week, the 30th. The list of singers and players who are going to give their help on the occasion, and the fine array of great names upon the managing committee, may be taken as guarantees that the concert will be worthy of its object, for Herr Molique well deserves all the honour that can be done him. A performance of his "Abraham" would have been appropriate on such an occasion; but getting up an oratorio is too serious a business to be undertaken in a hurry. We hope the framers of the programme will, at least, not forget to put in one or two of his admirable chamber compositions.

WE observe that the clever series of translations from the musical criticisms of Robert Schumann, which we noticed a little while back as appearing in the *Shilling Magazine*, is being continued. The April number contains a string of pleasant "causeries," which are well worth reading, about Heller, Paganini, Schubert, Chopin, Cherubini, and Mendelssohn.

MUSIC FOR NEXT WEEK.

APRIL 23 to 25.

MONDAY.

Popular Concert (Mr. Hallé's Benefit), St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.

TUESDAY.

Musical Union, Second Matinée, St. James's Hall, 3.30 p.m.
Miss Cronin's Third Pianoforte Recital, 29 Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square.

WEDNESDAY.

"Israel in Egypt," by the National Choral Society, Exeter Hall, 8 p.m.
Madame Eugene Oswald's Soirée, 39 Gloucester Crescent, Regent's Park, 8 p.m.
Mr. W. Carter's Concert, St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.
Mdlles. Georgi's Matinée, 70 Harley Street.

SATURDAY.

Crystal Palace Orchestral Concert, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY.

Mr. Leslie's Choir, Fourth Concert, Madrigals, &c., St. James's Hall, 8 p.m.

THE READER.

21 APRIL, 1866.

OPERAS.

Covent Garden, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.
Her Majesty's, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

THE DRAMA.

THE NEW ROYALTY.

AT this little house, which from Miss Kelly's days to the present seems to have been everything by turns and nothing long, Miss M. Oliver has lately produced the version of "Péril dans la Demeure," which bears the title of "The House or the Home." The piece was adapted for Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wigan, during their engagement at the Adelphi some seven years since, and being very well fitted for the exhibition of their powers in comedy of contemporary manners was proportionately successful. *The Right Hon. Horace Chetwynd, M.P.*, is just one of those portraits which Mr. Tom Taylor photographs so well, and which Mr. Alfred Wigan is so capable of animating. The statesman who, busy with the country's work, treats his wife with careless trust till he finds that the carelessness has been regarded and the trust ignored, was played with such dignity and force that their memory now revives the regret we feel for the absence from our stage of one of its truest artists. At the New Royalty, Mr. Charles Harcourt plays the part very fairly. His set speeches are, indeed, too set; but save in two or three, which furnish opportunities for a little declamation, and are made use of accordingly, he has the merit of quietness—a merit somewhat negative in character, but which may become positive in relation. This being his chief virtue, it will be understood that he was better in the first act than in the second—a descending scale of mediocrity which touched its lower extreme in the tag which the author has provided apparently for the purpose of making the actors look ridiculous. The burden of the piece fortunately rests on Miss M. Oliver, as the *Hon. Mrs. Wardour*—a woman of society, who is forced to employ, in one short hour, all the means which her feminine tact, strengthened by knowledge of the world, can suggest, to avert ruin from those she loves. This very difficult part is performed by Miss Oliver with equal cleverness and truth, and is looked so charmingly as to make one question whether she requires anybody to second her application to the Foreign Secretary for her son's attachéship. If she is least successful in the scenes with the said son, the fault is fairly chargeable on that young gentleman's present representative, whose name we withhold on principles of Christian charity. It is but rarely permitted to any player to see love-making which can commend itself as even approximately natural, but the utterer of *Fred. Wardour's* share of the dialogue passes the previously ascertained limits of theatrical inanity. So far that when *Mr. Chetwynd* declares his bloodthirsty intentions towards his wife's lover you accept the announcement with an agreeably restored faith in a Nemesis. Of Miss Nelly Burton (*Lady Helen Chetwynd*) little can be said but that she seems out of place in the comedy, and very much at home in the subsequent burlesque.

Of this, which is called "Ulf, the Minstrel," there is not much to be said either, and that little is not very favourable. Except for Mr. Reece's own personal concern in the matter, and the general interests of literary honesty, nobody can care whether the author has borrowed from the late Robert Brough or not. For even trying the piece by the low standard one is obliged to use now-a-days, if the mass of dramatic works is to be estimated at all, "Ulf" is but poor. Miss M. Oliver, as the *Princess*, points her sayings with archness and animation, making it to be regretted that the exercise of her talent is not confined to its proper higher sphere; and Mr. Robins and Mr. Hughes are comic as the King and his Chancellor. In addition, there are the usual dances and parodies of music-hall songs; the usual girls dressed as men, save about the legs; a smaller number of puns than is common; and some very good scenery. The author has not attempted anything very novel, and perhaps, therefore, cannot be reproached for his adherence to established forms, in whose favour the presumption is, of course, very strong. In this case, the audience—or perhaps spectators would be a fitter word—seemed satisfied with orthodoxy, and expressed their approbation with sufficient warmth. They also treated with a similar warmth the moral sentiments in the previous comedy, leaving us impressed with the accept-

able conviction that the domestic virtues are profoundly appreciated in the neighbourhood of Dean Street.

THE ST. JAMES'S.

Well-painted scenery, and elaborate specimens of the dressmaker's art, give shape to "Much Ado About Nothing." Clothes, too, walking about generally suppose, even in Herr Teufelsdröckh's philosophy, human beings inside them; but here the majority of the characters are as remarkable for their destitution of humanity, and their consequent family likeness, as a dozen travelling bags at a railway station. The face and voice are singular, of course, in each case, but in general absence of merit there is but scant picking and choosing. From this classification we may except Miss Eleanor Bufton, who, as *Hero*, has to look handsome generally, and swoon interestingly, which she does; Mr. Frank Matthews, Mr. F. Robson, and, necessarily, Miss Herbert and Mr. Walter Lacy. Yet, in spite of Miss Herbert's grace, intelligence, and careful acting, her rendering of *Beatrice* is not satisfactory. And, as may be supposed, this is not from any special defect of manner—though such parts as *Lady Audley*, and her sister monstrosities, have apparently not been without their deteriorating influence, but rather from a misconception of *Beatrice's* nature. In Miss Herbert's hands, the incisiveness of her verbal thrusts are but typical of the keenness and force of the whole woman. Strong, self-contained, and self-reliant, she projects her character in her witty fence with *Benedick*; but she only reveals its depths when, in the fourth act, she prays that she were a man, to be her own minister of vengeance upon *Claudio*. It is significant of the extent of Miss Herbert's misreading that this scene is her most effective one; that, in the prayer for *Claudio's* destruction, and the expression of her own hate, there is a concentrated strength of evil, a malignity of denunciation which is most satisfactory evidence of her tragic power, but is in no measure a true translation of *Beatrice*. After such an exhibition, no rational *Benedick* would have married her while legs remained to him to run away upon, unless, indeed, he were dagger and poison-proof, and did not mind a little risk for the sake of plenty of excitement.

The *Beatrice* of Shakespeare is strong, but not with a strength of this kind, and she is logical, which Miss Herbert's *Beatrice* is not. A beautiful, high-spirited girl, wittier and sharper of tongue than her family, and holding them somewhat in subjection accordingly, she has felt towards *Benedick*, before the commencement of the play, the agreeable sensation excited in clever young people by intellectual sympathy. He has become to her what girls now call interesting. When they meet her jests are biting, and her assumed dislike for marriage great. But it is not difficult to see that the vehemence of her declarations is prompted, however unconsciously, by the fact that her heart is tending towards that which she wishes to condemn. The conversation she overhears is but the means of displaying this to her, while *Hero's* charge of disdain and scorn suggests how misinterpreted have been her gibes and sarcasms. For her readiness to break jests with all—she does not except *Don Pedro*—is but the overflow of a rich temperament, that of a joyous girl who "wakes herself with laughing." And it is in perfect accordance with this strong vitality to be extravagantly passionate after *Hero's* broken marriage, and to say that if she were a man she would eat *Claudio's* heart in the market-place. She seizes the points of his conduct which present themselves most sensibly to the outraged feminine imagination—not so much the dishonour as the manner of it—and calls for *Claudio's* death as she would call for the heavens to fall, and declaims so passionately that she will not permit *Benedick's* thrice-attempted interruptions. This phase of feeling is not in opposition to her previous confession of love; it is but its continuation, for her cousin's sorrow has made her at this moment supremely natural, and to *Benedick* she tells all that is in her heart. Miss Herbert makes her act this with such a settledness of purpose, with such a cool strength of rancour, as to render the preceding avowal of love impossible; unless it were simply as a trap to catch a man to fight a duel for her; a notion familiar enough in certain French novels, and natural to Madame la Duchesse in "The New-comers," but not native to Shakespeare's *Beatrice*.

Mr. Walter Lacy's *Benedick* is what might be expected. It is acted with intelligence and vivacity, and the speeches are delivered with ease and precision. Once or twice he strains for

a "point," as in the clause, "and her hair shall be of what colour it pleases God;" where he clearly perverts the meaning, as if to catch applause from a generation which knows not *chignons* or dyed hair. Any other deficiencies that may be noted are purely natural, and should therefore be charged to the account of nature: a lady who has to bear so much that a slight addition to her burden can be of no importance. The responsibility of Mr. Frank Matthews cannot be shifted in the same way, for he blunders *ab initio* in his conception of *Dogberry*. The essence of the comedy in *Dogberry* lies in his profound unconsciousness of his own stupidity and unreason. Mr. Frank Matthews makes him so conscious of the amusing effect of his mistakes as himself to hail them with a premonitory laugh. Any conception of *Dogberry* which goes no deeper than regarding him as, say, a small London shop-keeper eligible for a poor-law guardianship, will be satisfied with his presentation as a bustling, ignorant man, inordinately pompous and self-satisfied. But the *Dogberry* which the stage only knows by tradition—a man so hopelessly dense that the wrong appears always as the better reason; so utterly confused that sixthly has priority in point of time to thirdly; owning such an idea of his dignity that having had losses goes to make it up as well as the possession of two gowns—is not the *Dogberry* of Mr. Frank Matthews. Mr. F. Robson's *Verges* is quietly and carefully done; sufficient praise for a small part which in less competent hands is very liable to be caricatured.

DRAMATIC NOTES.

WE believe that "The Rivals" will be the next legitimate revival at the St. James's Theatre.

APROPOS de "La Famille Benoiton." Our announcement last week that an English version of this famous comedy was in preparation for the Adelphi Theatre has given rise to much talk in dramatic circles, and has provoked an amusing cry from the London correspondent of *L'International*, the London *Galignani*, which is always worth reading. The paragraph deserves translating. The correspondent says: "The British public has allowed its indignation to boil over. Sardou's 'Famille Benoiton' is to be produced in London. I mean what I say; in London, I tell you. Those of my readers who run their eyes over English newspapers will remember, no doubt, the fierce volleys of invective which the modest gentlemen of Great Britain fired away every day against Sardou's work. How comes it then, that a manager of a theatre has had the courage, to say nothing of the impudence, thus to brave public opinion? Let us make our minds easy. The same 'Famille Benoiton' that struts on the stage of the Vaudeville won't be brought over to London. British modesty will compel the excision of some of its ugly excrescences. Why the ladies will wear dresses made up to their very eyes; they will be members of all the philanthropic societies in London, teach reading and writing to the poor, take classes in Sunday-schools, and talk of nothing but the excellencies of Heaven and plum-pudding! As to *Miss Benoiton*, she will keep her eyes steadily fixed on the ground while she recites her catechism to all her visitors. As to the moral—well, never mind, I wonder how M. Sardou will relish all this. Mr. Gilbert A'Beckett, a *nom de plume* of one of the most fertile English dramatic authors, is now preparing a translation of 'La Famille Benoiton' for one of the London theatres. I shall have more to say about it and-by-bye." This is highly amusing. The real truth of the matter is that Mr. Webster, junior, the translator of "Les Dames du Cabaret (The Dames of the Wine-shop)," and "Jeanne qui Pleure et Jean qui Rit (Crying Jenny and Laughing Johnny)," is preparing a literal translation of M. Sardou's comedy for the Adelphi, while Mr. Gilbert A'Beckett, the Mr. Gilbert A'Beckett's son, is preparing an adaptation of the comedy for "one of the metropolitan theatres." We are not favoured as yet with its name.

MR. D. D. HOME, ex-spiritualist, ex-lecturer, ex-poetry reader, intends attempting a new experiment in order to arrive at the pinnacle of fame. He is going to try his hand at acting, and is reported to be studying, under Mr. Ryder, the character of *Hamlet*, in which he will make his *début*.

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